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COVER PHOTO

Looking toward the 200 yard targets on the new (1963 construction) bench rest rifle range at Lewiston, Idaho, as it was when the first registered shoot was fired on it in early July 1963.

That certainly is an ample, rugged and scenic backdrop. It would appear that this terrain might make wind and mirage judging a real problem for shooters competing here for the first time. Frequently such terrain churns up wind patterns that are dillies.

1963 OFFICIAL DEWAR SCORES

The official scores for the Lord Dewar International Trophy Match, as released by the National Small-Bore Rifle Association of Great Britain, are:

Great Britain	7739
South Africa	7684
United States of America	7678
Canada	7627
Australia	7537
New Zealand	7513

A PROBLEM TO FACE

The present surge of propaganda for harshly restrictive firearms legislation in the Nation's press, radio and TV should, I think, be reason enough to cause all responsible shooting people to do some serious thinking on the subject, accept some facts of present day life, and review our plans of effort to protect our shooting sport.

I am utterly opposed to prohibition or unreasonably harsh restriction of ownership and use of sporting firearms. I am also utterly opposed to universal registration of sporting firearms because I am convinced that it would not serve any good purpose. However, in the light of present and probable future conditions, I do not think I need be considered any turn-coat in stating that I would accept reasonable, sensible and practical laws regulating the use of sporting firearms by responsible law-abiding citizens. Such regulation of use to be based on the rules of conduct already exercised by responsible shooting people and be uniform throughout the Nation.

Let's look our problem in the face. Many have been prone to label all who propose anti-firearms legislation as fanatics, do-gooders, crack-pots, or worse. Perhaps, even probably, some anti-firearms legislation is proposed by such people, and it seems reasonable to believe that subversive elements in our midst might aid such proposals. But I am firmly convinced that the wanton acts of totally irresponsible shooters and malicious shooting vandals have the greatest influence in turning the uninformed non-shooting public against all firearms and their use by anyone for any purpose.

Consider some incidents that have occurred near where I live. In the 1962 deer-hunting season a New Hampshire boy delivering newspapers while riding a bicycle at dusk was shot and killed by so-called

deer-hunters. At the very beginning of the 1963 New Hampshire deer-hunting season, a hunter dressed in conspicuous colored hunting clothes, sitting in a cleared power-line right-of-way, was shot at relatively short range by another hunter. In 1962, in Vermont, a hunter perched in an apple tree watching an orchard for deer was shot by another hunter who "thought it was a bear." (In this case I wouldn't consider that the victim exercised very good judgment.) Also in the 1962 Vermont deer-hunting season a friend of mine was shot in the leg while walking along a log road with a hunting companion. He was laid up for months and never will have a real good leg again. This was no "stray" bullet but was fired at relatively close range by a hunter shooting "at something moving." In another Vermont incident not too long ago, a wood-chuck hunter with a scope sighted 8mm rifle shot a boy in the head. Such incidents are occurring in all hunting areas over the country every year. Add to this the more frequent irresponsible shooting up of signs, powerline and telephone-line insulators, unoccupied buildings, live-stock, etc.; is it any wonder that the ill-informed non-shooting public tends toward approval of anti-firearms legislation?

These selfish, irresponsible people who have no regard for others than themselves are with us in all walks of life. Though a relatively small minority, they are the cause of many of our problems of everyday life. Their deeds in the hunting field are mainly responsible for more and more privately owned land being closed to hunting every year.

With our galloping increase of population, indiscriminate shooting by irresponsible persons is going to become an increasingly acute problem. It seems inevitable that laws to regulate the use of sporting firearms will be adopted, in the interests of public safety if nothing more. It seems to me that responsible shooting people should recognize that such a course will become necessary and that if such regulation is fair and reasonable, it may be desirable as a means for protecting their own interests.

I certainly believe that we shooting people should make every possible effort to prevent ill-considered, impractical and undesirable anti-firearms laws from being adopted. But if I am right in believing that laws to regulate the use of sporting firearms are inevitable in the future, then I believe that all should **right now** start making every effort to have that regulation made reasonable, sensible and practical, considering the rights of person and property of all our people as well as our own interests. I do not think that we should wait until ill-considered, undesirable, harshly restrictive laws have been introduced, and have to fight against their passage from a defensive position.

If we must have laws, I hope that the leaders of our shooting associations AND of the entire firearms and shooting accessory manufacturing and trade field will cooperate in planning and working for GOOD laws, and take the initiative in having them introduced. I believe that cooperation of the entire shooting field in working for the common good is more in evidence today than ever before. May we hope that cooperation continues and grows in effectiveness. If our leaders do "measure up," they will need and should receive the active support of all responsible shooting people.

Laws, even the best of laws, will not cure all of our ills. Laws do not stop murderers, thieves, rapists and other criminals from their deed, but enforceable laws are what civilized society depends on for some measure of protection for life and property. No law will eliminate the deeds of the irresponsible and vandal shooters, but if we have reasonable law regulating the use of sporting firearms, honestly and

impartially enforced, with realistic punishment upon conviction, it may deter some of those people and offer some measure of control of a real problem that we face.

P. H. T.

LETTERS FROM TWO NBRSA MEMBERS

The following two letters were addressed to the editor of Precision Shooting and for that reason are published here rather than in the official NBRSA section of the magazine. This editor does think, however, that since these letters do reflect the feeling of two rather recent members of the NBRSA, and possibly of others who have not taken the trouble to express their feeling, that they should receive the serious consideration of the NBRSA Directors, many of the older NBRSA members, and all persons interested in bench rest shooting even though not NBRSA members or competitors in matches.

LETTER NO. 1

Dear Mr. Teachout:

As a new member of the N.B.R.S.A. I had the opportunity to read the October issue of Precision Shooting.

With eagerness I read the letters submitted by Mr. Warren Page, editor of Field & Stream's shooting department, and also the letter presented by Mr. Alfred Walter, president of the N.B.R.S.A.

With the permission of the editorial staff I should like to present my views on the subject of rifle classification and why I feel we should stick to the rigid classification rather than the undetermined method of considering reclassification.

I can vividly recall my first center fire rifle, a lever action M94 Winchester in caliber 30-30. This was about as far from a bench rest rifle as a man could go but I was out to see what it would do on its best Sunday afternoon. I knew nothing of handloading and was at that time forced to use factory ammunition. I had that rifle doing a three inch group at the time and I felt pretty good about it.

Later I went into the U. S. Marine Corps and they introduced me to the famous M1 (?) bolt action rifle. I couldn't wait to get out and try my hand at reloading and shooting from the bench. When I got out of the service I began serious reloading and shooting from the bench; my groups began to shrink and I was in my glory.

Since then I have reloaded many thousands of rounds in many calibers of which I have fired in dozens of different rifles. As my accuracy narrowed to ½ minute of angle with my best rifles and near the minute of angle average with my sporters I learned one thing—my experimentation would never stop, and I also knew I had become involved in one of the greatest sports I have ever known.

I have over a dozen fine shooting bench, varmint and sporter rifles and two 40X Remingtons on order. Before I learned of the N.B.R.S.A. I had placed my rifles in three classifications; each had its purpose and could not be confused with the others. I felt that a sporter field rifle, even though very capable and fired occasionally from the bench, has to be classified as such and has definite limitations in regard to weight and scope power. If it weighs over 10 pounds and is mounted with more than an 8X glass it is no longer a sporter.

The varmint rifle must have a definite category also; it fits just in between the sporter and the bench rest rifle. We must be able to carry it in the field if necessary. Even though many use it as a car rifle and shoot from the sand bag rest over the car top or prone from the field position. At any rate I have found it very difficult to call and classify any rifle over 12 pounds a varmint rifle. This rifle should not carry more than a 12 power scope. I have been an avid varmint hunter for many

years and have yet to find a need for a scope larger than 12 power for this hunting and shooting. This same rifle from the bench will shoot like a house a-fire.

In strict bench rest shooting we have a horse of a different color; we are out to eliminate the human error and test our ability to select the components that come close to the one hole accuracy. It is this rifle that eventually tells us how to make our varmint and sporter rifles. It is the grandfather of them all. This rifle should be unlimited in weight under 20 pounds and the shooter should be able to use any optics that will give him the ultimate in precision shooting. He is not testing the scope or his own ability to any degree—he is testing the rifle and its components.

All other things being equal, I have found it is weight that makes the difference when it comes to accuracy in a rifle. Almost without exception I have found that it is the heavy rifle that comes close to the one hole accuracy. To further prove this I put one of my best varmint rifles on a diet. I had a fine 1/2 minute of angle rifle and had its barrel turned down to a sporter; it was free floating from the stock in the barrel area before and after. I took considerable weight from the stock and did not in any way change the bedding. The groups opened up as I expected but not as much as one may be led to believe. I later changed glasses on this old man rifle and found that the 12X did not do nearly as well as the 20X it formerly had. I had put this rifle in a classification of its own and it shot completely different in that class.

Experimentation is very costly but as Mr. Page puts it—riflemen are a bit paxilated anyway. No matter what the accuracy potential we are trying to attain we should have no fear of entering a good N.B.R.S.A. match if we can depend on good stable classifications for our rifles; these should not change because of popular opinion if they are well established rules that fit the average shooter. Let the man with his 3 minute of angle rifle feel he has something great and later learn that it is the craze of the accuracy bug that will teach him. There is no rifle too poor for the bench shooting game; that is how we learn to improve.

I am far from a defeatist by nature but I will admit to one thing about the bench shooting game. Just when I feel I am on the track of the one hole target average load I concede to the fact that none of us will ever find it. Try to imagine the company or custom manufacturer that can maintain rifle barrel tolerances to within near unmeasurable limits. Do we know of any bullet manufacturer that can come close to the perfect projectile? I am afraid not. What would we use for a propellant if we had these two very important components? Rifle powder as we know it is not the answer yet anyway. We have some very good primers today but have you tested them for the all important flash consistency? As yet we have not found cases to hold our powder and bullet to exact tolerances. None of us will ever give up because of this. Each year we are coming closer to that one hole group and it may behoove us to know that one day we may come extremely close to it.

Yours very truly,
Norman E. Johnson, R. T.
Plum City Ballistics Range
R. F. D. #1, Plum City, Wisc.

LETTER NO. 2

Dear Phil:

As a relatively new bench rest shooter (third season just completed) I suppose I should respect the old admonition that "youngsters should be seen but not heard." But I never obeyed the ruling when I was at my father's knee and it's a little late for me to start now. Besides, I think I have a valid perspective on this current controversy in the NBRSA over classifications

and limits. To my knowledge, no new shooter has yet spoken out on the subject.

The chief concern of many venerable NBRSA members seems to be that the far-out dimensions being explored by bench shooters today are forbidding to prospective members and new competitors. It would appear that their argument—and it may be a good one—is that if a category were provided for a strictly limited, off-the-shelf rifle shooter, he may be enticed into the bench game. I say the argument may be good because I have met a number of guys with factory rifles who have expressed mild interest in trying them out under competitive conditions.

But I think that this approach overlooks two important things:

One, the fundamental aim of the organization to promote experimentation and the development of equipment. Two, the preservation of a kind of purity in the pursuit of the Holy Grail of marksmanship's elite—the ultimate in rifle accuracy.

Frankly, I do not believe that a lowering of NBRSA standards contributes to either principle. I will concede that a new hunting rifle class would probably swell the membership rolls of the NBRSA. But the question that bugs me is: Does the NBRSA really want to become a mass organization of Sunday-afternoon plinkers?

May I suggest that, however praiseworthy the desire to get more Americans involved in shooting sports, this is not the traditional nor appropriate function of the NBRSA.

I joined the organization in the admiring belief that it is a very exclusive group. Not exclusive in the sense of barring members on such artificial criteria as wealth, social status, race, creed or color but exclusive on the basis of real, tangible differences which set bench shooters apart from the rest of the shooting crowd. Not everyone is sufficiently interested or willing to spend the time and effort required to enjoy bench shooting. Those who are sufficiently dedicated have a strong bond among them. They do not deserve to have this bond diluted by the encroachment of hordes of half-hearted plinkers who do not share their dedication.

It is my conviction that full, participating membership in this exclusive fraternity must be earned. I believe this because I am trying to earn my way in. I first became interested in bench rest shooting when I acquired a second-hand .244 Remington that consistently grouped around an inch.

Fortunately, I live close to Brunon Boroszewski and, more fortunately, he possesses a number of admirable traits—great enthusiasm for the sport, extreme patience with neophytes and a highly experimentive turn of mind. When I told him that I would like to shoot my .244 in competition he tried to warn me that my equipment would be badly outclassed. But I'm stubborn and when Brunon became convinced of my determination he offered no further objections. He helped me tune up my rifle and load to exploit the maximum of performance possible.

I shot that rifle in two matches during the summer of 1961—one a heavy-gun match and the other a varmint match—and in the sporter rifle nationals in 1962. I did poorly in all three. **But I wasn't the bottom man in any of them.**

The performance of my gun taught me, however, that it just was not of competitive quality. So, did I go home whimpering and quit the organization? I did not. I set about to improve my equipment. I made use of the things I had learned. The result was that this year I went to the matches with better guns and I shot better. Still not good. But better.

Now, I am not recounting these things to pat myself on the back. I'm trying to make a point. I am not a machinist or an engineer. I don't have access to a lathe

or a milling machine and I wouldn't know how to use one if I did. I'm not mechanically inclined and I'm not very good with tools. I'm not a mathematician or a chemist or a physicist. And, I'm not wealthy.

But I am stubborn and I am interested in bench rest shooting. I'm convinced that someday I'll earn a full, participating membership in this exclusive group of the shooting elite. I consider this a great challenge.

My point is simply this. If a man has a pretty good factory rifle and he wants to try it in benchrest competition, let him shoot in the present sporter class—or whatever existing class is appropriate for his rifle. If he shoots well, so much the better. If he shoots poorly then he has got to make a decision.

Does he really want to be a bench shooter? Or, isn't it worth the effort?

I say that if he decides it is worth the effort then he is going to become a good member. He will go through his apprenticeship and, in a while, he will begin contributing to the basic aims of the organization—and maybe even win some matches.

You see, I don't really care whether NBRSA gets to be a big organization. I just want it to be a good organization. When it stops being tough it stops being good. When the rules are made too easy the challenge disappears. And, without the challenge, the NBRSA will become just another ham-shoot, lucky-one-shot, Sunday afternoon plinker party.

Very truly yours,
George Wyatt
552 E. Quaker St.
Orchard Park, N. Y.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: As many of you know, I have been quite closely associated with benchrest organizations since shortly after the organization of the Eastern Bench Rest Shooters Association in 1947; a member and scribe since 1949. In my opinion, the foregoing are two of the most heartening letters for benchrest that I have ever read. They offer further proof that this U. S. A. does not lack people for whom the difficult is an interesting challenge.

I have never expected that the NBRSA would become a BIG organization in point of numbers of members. It has been a GOOD organization and its members have contributed much toward the improvement of rifle accuracy. With new-blood members like Norman Johnson and George Wyatt (and I think they are representative) the NBRSA will continue to be a GOOD organization, and as such, will attract GOOD members.

TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

At the first of the Metropolitan Rifle League for the current season, the Fall Double Individual, on November 17th, a total of 63 shooters participated. The course of fire was two 40-shot matches at 100 yards, indoors. Lloyd Norton from Bridgeport, Conn., placed third with identical scores of 400-32x in both matches and won the two-match aggregate with an 800-64x score. Eleven posted 400 possible scores in each match.

Five high in the first match were: Rans Triggs 400-34, F. Eichler 400-33, L. Norton 400-32, A. Rosenblatt 400-31, and F. Boelke 400-30. In the second match it was Barbara Norton 400-33, F. Boyd 400-33, L. Norton 400-32, D. Fuller 400-31, and W. Ritchie 400-29.

Rans Triggs was second in the aggregate with 800-62x, followed by F. Boelke 800-56, H. Stone 799-62, and A. Rosenblatt 799-57 over A. Battisto with another 799-57.

(Continued on Page Four)

Tournament Circuit

(Continued from Page Three)

QUINCY, ILLINOIS

The Quincy Pistol and Rifle Club held an NRA registered handgun tournament Sunday, Nov. 17th, at the Junior High Shooting Range. Winner of the Grand Aggregate, shooting 856 of a possible 900, was Sgt. R. L. Usher, Missouri Highway Patrol. He won first in the previous tournament, also. Second place went to Dr. A. R. Kansteiner, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with 843. The Quincy Club President Kyle Snowhill was third with 834.

Class winners were: Master, Max Schaefer, Lockridge, Iowa, 820. Experts Ralph Colby, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 806, and J. Rezabeck, Cedar Rapids, 804. Sharpshooter, Lester Ohlsen, Columbus Junction, Iowa, 797, and Robt. Willenberg, Cedar Rapids, Marksman, Gerald Wilper, Quincy, 779, and John Woods, Marion, Iowa, 751. Unclassified, James Swanson 789.

Quincy All-American team of Sgt. Usher, Kyle Snowhill, Gerald Wilper and Gene Terry won the team match with a score of 1082. Runner-up was the Cedar Rapids team of Paul Kosek, Ralph Colby, John Rezabeck and Robt. Willenberg with a score of 1066.

Evelyn Sacadat

Random Shots

By Betty Summerall Duncan
STIDWORTHY COMES THROUGH
AT FALL ROUND-UP

Refreshed after his Alaskan vacation and twenty pounds heavier, George J. Stidworthy, Jr., lassoed the Pacific States Fall Round-Up Smallbore Prone title on November 2-3 from the grasp of 152 aspirants, including four International Prone Team members. A predominantly civilian entry—as, unfortunately, the USA MTU and USAF Int'l Teams were under orders to return to Ft. Benning and Lackland AFB immediately following the Calif. State Int'l Championships the preceding week-end—it was studded with the West's great names. The Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club again afforded its traditional challenging competition.

After a several month respite from the tournament arena, Stidworthy's 3196-237X Grand Aggregate may give the impression that the Western Wildcats Champ has lost a trifle of his old razzle dazzle. Most famous for his fantastic X-count, even during the period when he was in a second-place rut, George's shortage of X's at this Round-Up of champions was outweighed by the valiant offensive which he waged to achieve victory. Fainter hearted men would have felt defeated at dropping 3 points in the opening match, but George merely cleaned his rifle and put into practice one of the most valuable theories of shooting—instead of becoming discouraged, he proceeded with renewed determination. He was clean for the rest of the day, placing second in the next match and winning the last two and the Metallic Agg. There was nothing wrong with his X-count that day.

George's tactics with scope were a bit different. He was on top, so he coasted. Points were his primary concern, not X's, for former National Champion Vic Auer, with a pile of X's but shy a point was posing a serious threat . . . Stidworthy, I believe, came closer to losing the tournament in the last stage of the last match than at any other time. Although this is generally the case, George was exposed to extenuating circumstances. He works hard to win, and perhaps I shouldn't reveal his "Achilles heel," but he does not like for his concentration to be disturbed when he is under pressure. Going into the last stage, an innocent competitor began plying him with questions about joining the Western Wildcats Rifle Club. Sensing George's discomfiture, I was on the verge of intervening



Pacific States Fall Round-Up Champion, George J. Stidworthy, Jr. Photo by Carl Knight

when "Commence firing" sounded. It is to his credit that he overcame the interference at a crucial moment.

Much interest was created as Stidworthy, Herb Hollister, Henry Benson, and John Hughes appeared for "colors," sporting the popular new brown leather 10-X coats. (Herb finally got his size 42). This array possibly communicated a slight psychological disadvantage to the wearers of the cloth (coats, we mean).

Firing his famous "White Rifle"—the Douglas, Kenyon-triggered, sleeved action, sweated in solder by Kenyon—with Kenyon receiver sight and Bell front, Hank Benson displayed his usual winning form as the matches got under way, with a 400-33X in the Dewar metallic. Medal winners were Bill Esperson—400-29X, Vic Auer—400-27X and Russ Van Devender—400-24X . . . A personal note about Russ—he is a comparatively new shooter, who has made rapid strides through his scientific approach. A college physics professor, he didn't have time to shave before the Western Nationals last May when he shot so well and made Master. So, this time he purposely arrived with a grizzly appearance. It worked, too, for Russ shot extremely well . . . Cliff Pierson's experimentation with his new Swiss glasses cost him—not only 2 points in the Dewar, but aggregate-wise. Putting them aside, he was "up there" at 100-yds., leading Stidworthy, 400-28X to 400-26X. Bob Boydston, with 399-32X, and Auer, with 399-26X, followed . . . Stidworthy took the meter—400-34X over Boydston's 400-31X and Bill Grater's 400-29X. Defending Champ Tom Guerin came in for 3rd Master with 399-34X, Creedmooring Benson . . . Stidworthy's 400-33X Creedmoored Vic Auer at 50-yds., to shut out Hollister, J. A. Bell, and 1952 National Champ Bob Perkins, who scored 31Xs.

In Metallic Aggregate totals, Stidworthy's winning 1597-119X was 5 Xs up on Cliff Pierson. Next came Auer's 1596-1595-116X, Hollister's 1595-115X, and Perkins' 1595-112X . . . Grater, who placed just out of the money with 1595-104X, felt lucky that he hadn't gotten worse than an 8 when his elbow slipped. He attributed it to lack of practice, as he has been away from the range since winning the North-eastern Prone Championship the end of June . . . Benson's 1594-123X and Guerin's 1593-129X accounted for the high X-counts.

Guerin considers that he has been practicing too much.

Frequently we find new shooters putting the old timers to shame, especially with iron sights. 17-year-old Marilee Reich, daughter of Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club's V. P., is a case in point. Not only did her 1592-105X win High Expert laurels, but it was the 11th ranking overall score. William Rogers, Arlington, Calif., placed second to Marilee with 1590-97X. Fred Stebler, Riverside, led the SS-MK class—1584-89X—by 13 Xs over Michael Lawler of Del Mar.

The early morning chill was gradually dispelled, but overcast skies lingered throughout the day except for brief intervals when a patch of light appeared to contribute to the points dropped for elevation. At 50-meters, many encountered trouble through over-doping, for at long range conditions had meant what they said, and more. A light, fickle wind created sufficient diversion, by frequently changing angle, to absorb one's attention. Those of us not blessed with perfect eyesight employed various colored filter combinations. Bob Perkins, among others, used the smoke-colored filter in the iris eyepiece. I found that the green filter in conjunction with an amber front sight insert gave me a clear star-shaped bull, which was preferable to the diagonally egg-shaped blur which I was seeing with the amber front and clear lens in the rear (which I can generally use in any light). The contrasting effect of different colors on a sight picture has never seemed so pronounced. . . . Vic Auer now has a pair of pinkish-grey sunglasses to wear over his clear contact lenses in bright sunlight. He wears yellow sunglasses on a day such as this.

The wind had begun to kick up a bit for the 2-man team any sight Dewar when Hank Benson and Herb Hollister fell short of the record by 5 Xs. Their 800-66X won a pair of belt buckles. For the fifth time, Tom Guerin and Bill Atkinson have teamed up and each time have placed second. Scoring 800-54X, they outdistanced Dick Burkhart and John Hughes' 798-61X. Vic Auer and Mike Allen had a close one which didn't make, so their 798-59X ended up in 4th place but was good for a new National Reserve Record . . . Fortunately, it was called to our attention that the winning Expert score of 799-52X was turned in by service personnel, as M/Sgt. Herbert Simpson and SP/5 Jim Price, from ARADCOM AMU, Ft. Carson, Colo., now hold the National Service Record. Bruce Meredith and Joe Miller, from the same unit, also exceeded the former record with a 798. Not having the statistics on their service connections, we had already congratulated a Navy team with 795 . . . Rosemary and Bill Esperson, Sunnyvale, won 2nd Expert medals for a 797-53X, and Don and Ken Wood, from Bakersfield, took SS-MK honors with 796-53X.

As the Master Class fell heir to the first relay for the scope matches, conditions bordered on perfection, with a mere whisper of breeze. Floyd Day, holder of the Palmer Match record some years ago, prevented Bill Atkinson's winning his customary match (Bill always wins at least one match) by Creedmooring his 400-37X. Pierson totaled 36 Xs, Hollister and Auer, 35Xs. Vic bettered his National Reserve Record by 2 Xs . . . Benson won at 100-yds. with 400-37X. Henry, couldn't you have managed 2 more Xs? This 400-38X record has held long enough. Floyd Day's 400-34X was in second spot, Bob Walline, Upland, Calif., was second Master with 400-33X, followed by Pierson's 400-31X. . . . Vic Auer has a habit of raising his own National Reserve Records, which he again did as his 400-37X won at 50-meters. Hollister and Benson trailed with 33Xs. Next came Burkhart with 31Xs . . . Xs in the final 50-yd. match did not represent the maximum capabilities of the competitors.

Thoughts were more on aggregates than a single match. Wind was a little tricky, but it was possible to get in step with it. Karl Stal was high with 400-36X, and the next two rankni scores were 400-35X, turned in by Expert Herbert Simpson and Sharp-shooter Lyle Hassen. There was a raft of 400-34's, fired by Hollister, Warren Wino-vich, Gordon Lage, Bill Esperson, Bill Schlitzkus of Springfield, Oregon, and Expert Jeanie Hanson of Ogden, Utah. Everyone was pulling for Floyd Day; he was the only one who went into the last match clean. His close one at 50-yds. was one of those which could have gone either way. It didn't make!

The Any Sight Aggregate resulted in seven 1599's and fell to Vic Auer's 1 X lead over Hank Benson, as Vic's 1599-137X gave him another National Reserve Record. Floyd Day totaled 133Xs, Hollister-132, Burkhardt-127, Grater-125, and Stidworthy-118X.

Arriving at the finish line, runner-up to Stidworthy's 3196-237X was Vic Auer's 3195-251X, an 8X improvement on Lones Wigger's National Reserve Record. (Those two shuffle the reserve records back and forth with such frequency that it has the boys in Washington working overtime). Second, third, and fourth places went to Int'l Prone Team members, with Hollister's 3194-247X and Grater's 3194-229X. Pierson, who accompanied the European team, had 3194-227X. Benson followed with 3193-259X. (Stidworthy and Henry were barely nosed out of Prone Team spots). These scores further substantiate the fact that such consistent shooters are Int'l team material. . . . Calif. State Champ (on the British Nat'l target) Bob Boydston was next in line with 3193-234X, followed by Bob Perkins' 3192-240X, Guerin's 3188-244X, and Schlitzkus' 3188-223X.

Expert leaders were Jim Price, Ft. Carson AMU-3180-202X, and Carter O'Brien, Santa Monica-3180-175X. Peter Sands' 3171-171X and Fred Stebler's 3166-170X topped the SS-MK class. The Un-classified trophy went to Iosenh Miller, Ft. Carson AMU, for his 3165-178X.

It is unusual to have seven ladies clustered within a 10-point spread (except at the Nationals). Marilee Reich, who finished third in the Expert class, gained a strong lead with her 1592 Metallic Agg. Although she didn't fare as well with scope, she came out ahead with 3173-197X. Taking her choice of awards, she selected the High Junior trophy, and the High Lady trophy went to Gail Cauley for her 3170-168X. . . . The "hard luck" award goes to Judy Saffell for the unfortunate incident which cost her 10 points and her choice of the above two trophies. Although convinced that she had fired sufficient shots at 50-meters, only 4 shots on one bull showed on the target. At a time when Judy desperately needed her backing target to verify her 5th shot, she had carelessly hung it in such a manner that her "proof" did not appear on the backer. I'll say this for Judy—she took it like a pro.

Personal mention—: A salute to Gerry Howard and Gerry Marotta, who made a speed run so that the flag (which had been forgotten) was on hand for morning colors! At a time when patriotism is often synthetic or even outlawed through the wails of certain misfits, we must redouble our efforts to combat such un-American elements. Flag-raising is a symbol, but quite a meaningful one. Ernest Stuhl-schutter expressed it extremely well in his September remarks. . . .

One of the most quotable firing line personalities, Herb Hollister's comments frequently wind up in print. "This is the first time I've ever been penalized for a high position," came after his first encounter with the firing line baffling (which will be described farther on). Careful measure-



George Stidworthy (left), Vic Auer, and little Mary Stidworthy. Photo by Carl Knight

ments had been taken, but Herb's arms are possibly longer than ours and I suspect that he had to lengthen his sling a notch in order to see through his sights. He was still unable to see the wind flags. We felt badly about his predicament and urged him to shoot from the walk-way in the center of the firing line, but he declined, fearing that a surprise inspection might be made. That is the caliber of sportsman Herb Hollister is—to place himself at a disadvantage rather than to place our range in jeopardy. He Creedmoored Jim Hill for the Fall Round-Up title three years ago. . . . Before he returns in April, we'll have a special firing point, more suitable to his needs, in readiness for him. . . .

It was good to have Karl Kenyon, recuperating from back surgery, as a spectator. He rode down with Henry. . . . Remember 1959 National Champion Walter Kamila? Walt underwent successful surgery for a brain tumor in May. He served as an assistant range officer, and now has the shooting fever again. . . . Getting back to Hank Benson—Frank Dutra would like us to pass on this story. Last February when we were attempting to locate Bare-foot Hogue and his B & L mounts, Frank casually mentioned that he would like to have one of the mounts. After all these months, it had slipped his mind—but, not so with Henry. His thoughtfulness and consideration for his fellow-shooters is becoming a legend. Need I tell you that he arrived here with Frank's B & L mount?

Keeping abreast of what the winners are using, a survey of the firing line divulged that George Stidworthy is still shooting his Kenyon-triggered Womack-37, Redfield Int'l sights, with EZXS. He stepped his Unertl scope up to 16-power. . . . Vic Auer fired his "reconditioned" 52C in the laminated stock with Swem bedder, Bell front sight, Redfield X-tube, Unertl scope, (he used 24-power) and an assortment of ammo ranging from RWS R-50 to various lots of Mark III and EZXS. . . . Hollister stayed with the square action, made by Floyd Gibson and Raymond Sargent, with Hart barrel and Kenyon trigger. (The rifle, we understand, was a gift from Raymond). He uses a Unertl tube and B & L scope. Herb employs the same strategy that Lones Wigger and some others do regarding ammo—he prefers Remington at

short range and EZXS lot 10A at long range. (Wigger uses Mark III at long range). I could explain it, but I'll let you draw your own conclusions. . . . Grater shot his Atkinson-Marquart-52C with Kenyon trigger, Redfield X-tube, Bell front sight, Lyman 20X scope. Pierson, as we've mentioned before, made his outfit, including left-handed stock, action, trigger, and metallic sights. His Lyman scope is a 12-power. When asked if he is still shooting EZXS, he replied, "Yes, but it's a lie. They aren't easy." . . . In his "White Rifle," which has won first and second in the Nationals, Benson used Remington. . . . Boydston is strictly a BSA shooter. Like Caygle, he likes the Mark II trigger and Atkinson-Marquart barrel, but has Mark I action. He uses the Freeland tube and Bell front sight, Lyman 20X scope and Remington ammo complete the picture.

A dinner on Saturday night was well-attended, but just as Bill Grater was about to show movies of their European trip, the bulb broke in the projector. We enjoyed his interesting commentary, however.

It was a good tournament, with a smooth-running stat office, and happy competitors.

I have had so many requests for more dope on the top shooters' theories that I should like to take advantage of this several-month lull in the outdoor tournament season to further explore various viewpoints and scientific aspects. My initial purpose was to provide useful information which new shooters and 6 o'clock Masters could use as a basis for experimentation. Bill Grater, among others, is interested in the plan. It is his feeling, however, that it is the top shooters themselves who will benefit most from the exchange of ideas. Bill also confided that Pres Kendall seems to have changed his mind about a couple of his convictions which we set forth for you a year ago—the matter of bedding, for example.

Let's focus our attention on Stidworthy—

After a great deal of coercion, I managed to get George to discuss some of his shooting techniques—but only after he had renounced his "runner-up" title and had won the Western Wildcats Championship. I think that he was afraid that I would involve him in the debate between former National Champions Pres Kendall and Vic Auer and he shied off.

Those of you who still have the March issue might find it useful for reference. We will not implicate George in the debate between those two, for he considers that it would be asking him to "step out of his realm." Their assertions, however, provide an excellent springboard.

In agreeing to an interview, George remarked—: "About my best qualification to comment on such subjects (equipment, techniques, etc.) is the fact that if there is a mistake to be made, I have probably made it."

Why is it that some good rifles shoot better than others? The secret, many believe, is in the bedding. George glass-beds all of his rifles from the back end of the receiver to 6 inches in front of it. "I use a 4-point NSS bedder—the 'Cookie bedder'—and push down instead of up as most shooters do. Of all the bedders I have seen, I think I would like Walter Womack's the best if he would make it without those damned clicks which prevent my getting a true 'feel' of it as is possible on the original Swem bedder. Walter's idea of a spring instead of the neoprene snubber is an improvement and so is his use of formica plugs instead of wood which can swell up and 'freeze' when wet. Like Vic, I don't mind taking the time to reset a bedder if I think it can keep everything just 100% at all times."

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Random Shots

(Continued from Page Five)

Continuing, "I release my bedder after a match—along the same lines that Pres does his action screws. However, I think I'm too much of a coward to loosen those action screws when I have an outfit working for me."

George feels that no one can advise others whether or not to use a small, medium, or large front aperture. "What one shooter sees is most likely quite different from what others see. I vary my aperture according to light, target (distance—50-yd. and 100-yd.), etc., and use a light meter to keep it reasonably efficient. I have to do all I can with iron for I have only mediocre vision even with correction." That should give comfort to a lot of you.

"I use glasses instead of a lens inserted in the rear sight for my eye trouble is astigmatic and I'm afraid I would have trouble with the angle between my eye and an inserted lens varying. I would much prefer the inserted lens if my trouble was just far or near-sightedness. I have messed up my Perry shoot twice when it rained or else was terribly humid and my glasses could not be kept clear.

"I use a yellow lens at all times. If the reflected light is real bad and gives me an exceptionally high meter reading, I then add a number one Ray-Ban green lens. With the yellow Kalichrome, this gives me about 50% filtration or about the equivalent of a number two Ray-Ban by itself.

"I use a Dot in my scope, not because I want to cover anything up, but because the weakest part of my shooting is a poor follow-through with the scope and I follow the Dot better than a cross-hair.

"I vary from 12 to 16 power depending upon my frame of mind (buck fever), the ease of reading mirage or an excess of mirage. I'm inclined to agree with Pres that around 15X is sufficient. I think Vic is right that magnifying mirage doesn't increase to any basic inaccuracy. I believe that it may, however, have a psychological effect upon the shooter which would increase his inaccuracy.

"I fail to see any advantage to having the spotting scope and rifle scope the same power. I used to use a 30X spotting scope when I lived back East. Out here in the Southwest I have dropped down to a 25X and think it is a much better compromise for out here. Sometimes 30X was just too much. I like the 45-degree jobs, also.

"I think when Vic and Pres talk about shooting when the mirage is the same, they are talking about two entirely different parts of the country. It would be almost impossible in most Western States to follow Pres' technique. When it is strong on our ranges here in the Rocky Mt. States, there is little to do except get in step with the mirage and follow it wherever it takes you. What the two boys are saying is probably right for both of them in the area where they do most of their respective shooting.

"I would guess that Vic uses a lot more sighters than Pres. I don't shoot nearly as fast as Vic and could not do the endless checking and rechecking on the sighter which he does. I hope Vic doesn't hate me for this, but I would guess that Pres is a better wind-doper than Vic and that Vic is compensating by his large number of sighters. If things really get rough, I would put my money on the shooter who is an out-and-out better reader of conditions.

"On the question of percentage of concentration to technique and to wind conditions, here is where I part company with both Vic and Pres—but I think for a very good reason. I would guess that both of them are much better 'natural' shooters than I. I often feel that I have absolutely no native talent for the game at all. I feel I am devoting at least 50% of my attention

to basic fundamentals (at least when I'm smart, I am) and the other 50% to the wind. I feel I am a much better wind-doper than a shooter, per se, so I have to do it this way.

"On refocusing the spotting scope to read the mirage, I'm with Pres 100%. Not only am I not interested in what the mirage is doing beyond the target, but it is impossible for me to interpret it 10% as well. Sometimes if I am absolutely lost for something to get in step with and only the large blob of mirage beyond the target is available to me, I'll use it. Certainly hate to, though, and feel as though I am courting a very fickle mistress.

"I like to keep my rifle on the shoulder, but have to do it differently than most. If I keep my right elbow on the mat and roll the gun toward it clock-wise as most do, I can feel my position coming apart very soon. I roll counter-clockwise, bringing my right elbow off the mat and my right arm up and over in a sort of modified swimming stroke, to reach the chamber. I have to be careful with replacing my right elbow, but would rather do this than feel as though my position was coming 'unglued.' I think Bill Grater has the most perfect reloading technique I have ever seen.

"Agree with both that a top-notch rifle is a must. If your rifle groups only 1/10 inch larger in average size than those of the guys you are trying to beat, you're in the position of shooting a meter target while they shoot at a yard target. There's not that much difference between first and tenth place in the average match.

"I use a 10-X cloth coat, but not by preference. I used Ed Cayle's one day (his Air Force leather job) and would surely like to be wearing it when the air gets turbulent. However, at \$185 each, guess my beer pocketbook dictates a cloth one."

(Note: this was before 10-X came out with its leather coat).

"I agree with Grater on the Kenyon trigger being the best I have ever used."

This is the essential make-up of a champion. I am grateful to George for his honest revelations, as I know that you are. Any shooter who frankly reveals his shooting secrets is to be admired. Since winning the Pacific States Fall Round-Up, George has become the new Arizona State Champ. We have the story on that, but not the statistics, so will save it for next month.

George and Grace have many friends around the country, scattered from their home state of New Jersey to the West Coast. I know that you will all share the Stidworthy's concern over the illness of their young daughter, Mary. A streptococcus infection triggered an attack of nephritis. Although this is not a social column, I feel justified in passing this news on to you.

When the mayor of a city the size of Pasadena, Calif. (approx. population 125,000) is sufficiently interested in the local junior shooting program to personally congratulate the winner, it's news. If more cities had officials such as Mayor Clarence Oakley, the citizens of tomorrow would be well on their way toward being trained in the principles of fair sportsmanship, a keen development of their minds, in addition to a skill quite vital to our national defense.

As the Pasadena Rotary Club and Pasadena Recreation Dept. co-sponsored the Annual Fall Gallery Junior 4-position tournament on Oct. 26-27, 135 competitors, representing 23 Junior Rifle Clubs, vied for top honors in their respective classes. Mayor Oakley arrived in time to witness the final firing and to award the Mayor's Trophy to Douglas S. Spencer, Jr., of Sierra Madre, for his 389 victory over Gary Olson, who scored 388. Doug and Gary teamed up to win the 2-man team trophy for the San Gabriel Valley Club, Jr. Division. Even though their 768 fell short of

their 775 National Metallic Sight Record, this "Mutt and Jeff" team functions well together. (Doug stands 6' 4 or 5").

High Girl Trophy was won by Kathy LaMonte of the Camp Pendleton Junior Club for her 384, while Greg Thompson, Pasadena Rotary Jr. Club, was High Sub-Junior with 378 . . . Susan Meek, from the San Gabriel Club, placed second to Olson in the Master Class. Her 382 was a point ahead of John Fraser, from the Camp Pendleton Club . . . Jim Grizzell's 379 took Expert honors, representing Pasadena Rotary Juniors, and the Valley Rangers' Bill Skrocki fired 381 to lead the SS Class . . . Maverick Class Trophy (age 19-25) went to Tom Shanks' 383. He is a member of the Lock, Stock and Barrel Jr. Club of Riverside.

One thing about the Pasadena Recreation Dept.—when they co-sponsor a tournament, they assist in its operation. The Arcadia paper afforded the most complete news coverage, including a photo, although several of the local papers gave space to the event.

Late word from Fresno, Calif.!!! Vic Auer pierced a heavy fog with 3194-234X to outshoot Mike Allen's 3192-233X and Bob Boydston's 3191-216X on December 7-8.

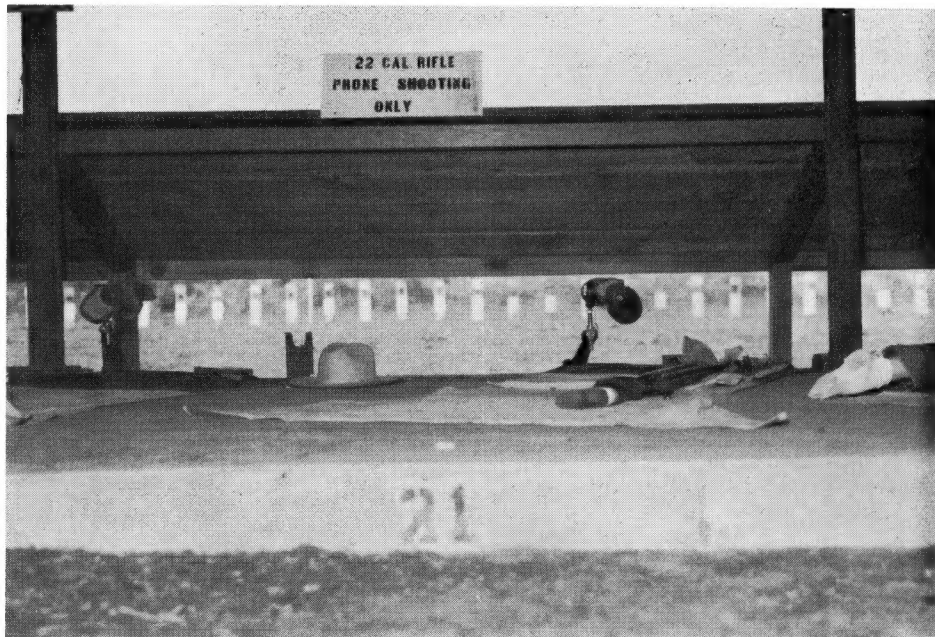
We are all interested to some extent in fostering junior programs, either actively or passively. Just let the sparks from one careless shot kindle, though, and one fervently wishes that every teenager in America could be forced into a supervised shooting program. That was the reaction at the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club a year ago when a golfer, playing on a course about a mile from our firing line, was winged by a stray shot. Suspicion was immediately directed toward the rifle range and the public pistol range next door, and although it was definitely proven that the shot did not come from either—but was fired by one of two teenagers shooting at random in the vicinity of a dry river bottom—the axe was about to fall.

Faced with the possibility of losing the range, just three weeks prior to the 1962 Fall Round-Up, the entire membership of the Los Angeles Rifle & Revolver Club went into action. County officials, convinced that the construction of a low-baffling arrangement would fulfill their safety requirements, agreed that the range could remain in operation if the baffling was installed. The range should have been fenced years ago, but it took a crisis to accomplish it . . . Everyone capable of wielding a hammer or a saw showed up for the "work parties" and the baffling was completed in time for the tournament. Otto Marckmann applied the finishing touch with a coat of green paint. Those unable to work contributed toward the cost of the fencing . . . The range is restricted to smallbore prone shooting only, and a recent addition is a high baffling arrangement. Besides being a further safety precaution, it hides from view the houses on a distant hilltop.

One solution occurs to me which might serve to placate the shouts of those, riding the current tide of emotionalism, for more stringent regulations governing the mail order sale of firearms. Since they ostensibly are seeking to prevent the lawless and juvenile delinquents from having access to mail order weapons, if their shipment were restricted to bonafide members of the National Rifle Association or of the NBRSA, which membership bars the criminal element, the uproar should then be appeased—especially if it were further stipulated that eligibility for ordering a mail order weapon be contingent upon either holding an es-



The 112-point Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club covered firing line before safety baffling was constructed.



Part of the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club covered firing point after baffling was constructed "To save the Range." The baffling permits only prone shooting. Photo by L. C. Davis

established classification or having successfully completed a Hunter Safety course. Details for certification could be outlined.

I offer this suggestion in the hope that, if adopted, it would circumvent the passage of some of the wildly irrational proposals which would truly be an infringement upon our inherent right to keep and bear arms. The shooting fraternity is even more anxious than the aroused populace to keep arms out of the hands of those with distorted minds. I feel, therefore, that this plan, limiting the sale of arms by mail to those who are trained in both proficiency and safety and who are reputable citizens, will meet with the approval of organized sportsmen.

Those who purport to interpret the Constitution are at times oblivious to the original intent of its framers whose precise phraseology was a result of careful, far-sighted deliberation. When the historic document was subsequently amended in 1791, following proposal by the First Congress, Sept. 25, 1789, the original signers had almost unanimously been present and had had a voice in designing Amendments One to Ten Inclusive, known as the "Bill of Rights." Descended from one of those eminent gentlemen who, along with his brother, had a part in constructing and signing the Constitution and in the development of the Bill of Rights, I would be unworthy of his blood which flows in my veins if I now lacked the courage to defend those precepts.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution, Article II of the Bill of Rights, declares: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." This does not state that the people have to be a part of the militia in order to have the right to keep and bear arms. Its implication is that through the right of possessing arms, the people will become sufficiently knowledgeable to be proficient in bearing arms should they be called to form a part of "the militia" in defending the security of this free "State." Quoting in part from the 1939 Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the National Firearms Act: "The sentiment of the times strongly disfavored standing armies. The common view was that adequate defense of country and laws could be secured through the militia—citizens primarily, soldiers on occasion . . ." In other words, "the militia," equated in terms of present-day practice, would be made up of volunteer and drafted civilians in time of national emergency. The provision of the Second Amendment was engendered to arm the people. A standing

army was a natural outgrowth as the nation grew and scientific inventions made the world more compact. The essence of the decree embodied in our time-honored statutes should not be tampered with nor used in a time of hysteria as a weapon to avenge a tragic murder committed by a demented defector.

These remarks were necessitated by a recent newspaper analysis, spotlighted by the following sensational headlines: "The Right to Bear Arms—Court Holds 2nd Amendment Limits Right to Regulated Militia." If I presume to disagree with the "Law of the Land" as interpreted by the Supreme Court, it is because there are no limitations contained in Article II of the Bill of Rights. Opinions may deviate in isolated, unusual cases, but I maintain that the right of reputable citizens "to keep and bear arms" cannot constitutionally be violated under the terms of that revered document set forth so long ago.

As I extend to each of you my wish for Yuletide joy, let us include a concerted hope that 1964 will bring a return to calm, logical thinking on the issues which so vitally concern us all. HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BETTER SHOOTING!

THE NEW BAUSCH & LOMB HUNTING SCOPES

By Phil Teachout

I have for the past six months been using testing three of the new Bausch & Lomb hunting scopes; the BALFOR A, a 4X fixed power scope, the BALVAR 5, a 2.5X to 5X variable, and the BALAR 8, a 2.5X to 8X variable. I have used the scopes on three rifles; a Win. M70 featherweight in 30-06 cal., a Win. M70 Standard in .243 Win. cal., and a Rem. Model 700 ADL in .222 Rem. Mag. cal. During this period I have fired a total of 761 rounds in the three rifles while using these three scopes. All of this firing has been at targets and the greater part of it from rest at measured ranges. While I used both the BALFOR and the BALVAR 5 enough to make comparisons, the greater part of the firing was done with the BALVAR 8, simply because this was the scope that appealed to me most, for my own use. I had never before this experience used any Bausch & Lomb hunting scope and mount combination.

I did not throw any of these scopes on the floor to test their shock resistance, and I did not throw them in the rain-barrel to test their moisture and fog-proof qualities. I treated them as I do my own scopes, gave

them normal use but not abuse.

Even before receiving the scopes I was rather amazed at the very substantial price reductions announced for the new scopes and mounts. The Company states in its literature: "When the scope and mount development program was begun in 1960, our objective was to design a better scope and mount that could be offered at lower prices and still make a profit for the company and our dealers."

"Optical quality of the new hunting scopes is equal to or better than that of the previous models. Mechanical and optical design changes have contributed to improved performance and added new features."

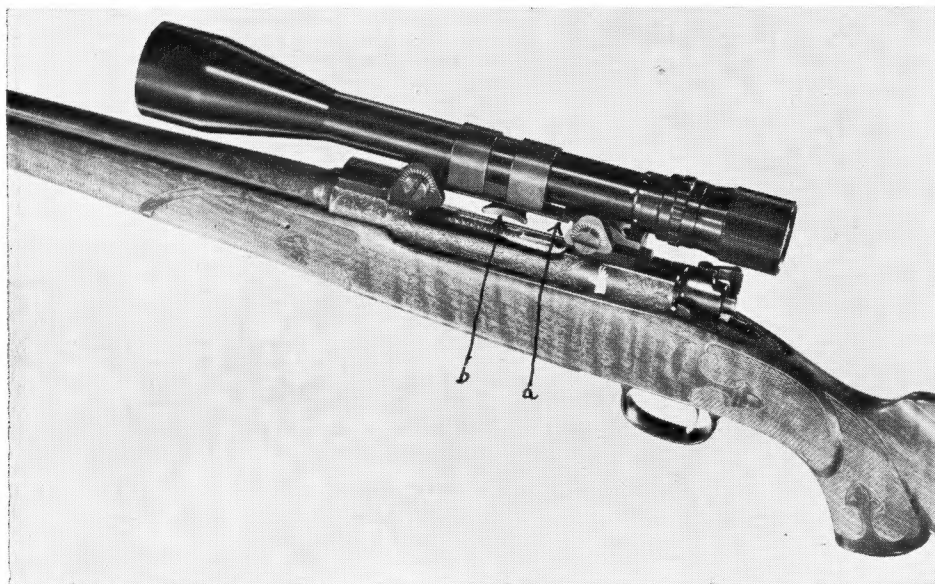
As just an ordinary scope using shooter, I'd say that the optical quality is at least equal to that of other top-quality scopes I have and use. What seems to be one change is that "On the variable models, power change is accomplished by rotating the eyepiece. This means the scope can be built much stronger and it is easier to rotate the eyepiece than turning a power ring." (A quote from B&L literature.) I do find that turning this eyepiece is somewhat easier than turning the power ring on two other variable power scopes I have.

The Bausch & Lomb hunting scopes (old or new models) DO NOT HAVE internal adjustments for elevation and windage—these adjustments are made in the mounts. I'd presume this system would simplify manufacture and should result in a structurally stronger scope tube. A feature of this system which has always seemed appealing to me is that a set of mounts can be installed on two or more rifles, a single scope then zeroed in the mounts of each rifle and thereafter, providing the same loads are used as when zeroed, the scope can be exchanged from rifle to rifle without further re-zeroing and retain essentially the same point of impact.

When the scopes were sent to me, mounts for the Win. M70 rifle were supplied. I requested additional mounts for the Rem. 700, short action, and these were promptly supplied. I switched each scope back and forth between each rifle times enough to be fully convinced that this feature is quite reliable.

I tested each of the variable scopes to see if there was any change in point of impact as the magnification was changed, firing 10-shot groups and making a power change between each shot. There was no change and the groups were normal in size, within the limits of see-ability at the lower

(Continued on Page Eight)



The new Bausch & Lomb BALVAR-8 hunting scope in the new and improved B&L mounts.

The New Bausch & Lomb Hunting Scopes (Continued from Page Seven)

powers.

The B&L mounts are of Vee block design. Windage adjustments are made in the front block, the scope tube being moved sidewise by the adjusting screw which has a coin-slotted head on the left side of the mount. Elevation adjustments are made in the rear mount. The Vee block, in which the scope tube rests, is in two parts. By means of a counter-threaded screw the two parts can be narrowed (pinched together) to raise the scope tube, and widened to permit the scope tube to settle lower, being drawn down by the tension of the clamp spring. The rear mount adjusting screw also has a coin-slotted head on the left side of the mount. Both adjusting screws have positive lock screws on the right side of the mount. Each adjusting screw head has an index mark and an arc on the side of each mount is plainly graduated, with each graduation mark representing one minute-of-angle change. The only minor hitch I experienced in the adjustment operation of these mounts was that when making a very small downward adjustment in the rear mount it usually required the shock from one fired shot to settle the tube into place. This did not occur when making a considerable downward adjustment or when making even small upward adjustments. This little hitch could of course be eliminated by lowering the elevation more than needed and then raising it to the desired point of adjustment.

The method of holding the scope tube in the mount bases is entirely new and a very real improvement over the old type of mount. The scope tube is fastened to a single clamp ring base by two spring steel clamp rings which hook onto one side of the base and are drawn tight on the other side by two screws in each ring. A threaded lug in the center of the base goes through a hole in the clamp spring and the spring is held in place and tightened by a clamp nut. The rather heavy spring steel clamp spring, or bar, is hooked at the forward end to fit under the spool of the front mount. The rear end fits under a projection on the front of the rear mount block (see "a" in the illustration) and the spring is then compressed to bottom against the base by the clamp nut ("b" in the illustration). This system provides a very positive, secure anchoring of the scope in the mounts and there was never the slightest movement of scope or change in zero in firing during the testing. Removal of the scope from the mounts, or its return, is accomplished quite easily and quickly. The instructions for assembly and use (packed with each scope) are simple and clearly stated.

B&L's patented tapered cross-hair reticle is used in the variable power scopes. In both the BALVAR 5 and 8 the cross-hairs cover 1/3 minute-of-angle at the center and permit very precise aiming at the higher powers. At the lowest powers, and especially in poor light against neutral or dark color objects, the cross-hair intersection is indistinct and hard to pick up, but the thicker tapered parts lead the eye to the center of the scope and probably provide adequate aim for fast, close range shots at big game animals.

The B&L system of scope and mount is somewhat bulkier than combinations of internal adjustment scopes and mounts. Emergency use of the open sights on most factory rifles is impossible with the B&L mount bases attached to the rifle—they are too high and cover the iron sight line. The clamp nut tends to be a back-of-thumb scraper when loading cartridges into the magazine.

In conclusion; I consider the new line of Bausch & Lomb hunting scopes and mounts to be top quality products giving excellent performance. They are competitive in both performance and price with other top quality scope combinations and choice would be largely a matter of personal preference.

COMMENT ON BULLET MAKING

(Excerpts from a letter from

Creighton Audette, Springfield, Vt.)

ACCURACY TESTING: I have done quite a little group testing with this 10 lb. .308 (.308 Win. cartridge) at 300 yards since I got the B&A dies (bullet making dies). Prone rest, using double sand bags, picking near perfect conditions between sun-down and too dark to sight with a 20X scope, 10-shot groups. It is interesting the things you can learn about the peculiarities of an individual rifle with intensive testing. This gun does its best for about 10 to 12 shots, starting with cold, clean barrel, firing three warmers and then shooting group at normal cadence. After about 15 shots (including warmers) the group starts to open up. A second 10-shot group fired immediately (equivalent to 20 shot string, but two 10-shot groups) will always run 1/2" to 1" larger than the first group. I am fairly sure this is not simply shooter fatigue, since I have checked it out by shooting a group with another rifle, then shooting the .308 immediately.

Under these ideal conditions (and discounting any bad let-offs) the 168 grain Sierra International bullet with the best loadings will shoot 10-shot groups of 2 1/2" to 3 1/2" extreme spread at 300 yards. I have a couple groups that run about 2 3/8" under these conditions.

So far, my very best efforts with the hand swaged bullets will just about equal this (1.150 "My Special" jackets, 168 grain bullets in B&A 6S dies). The same loads as for the 168 gr. Sierra seem to work best with these, but hotter loadings will shoot better than the same loading with the Sierras.

(Editor's note:—The "My Special" jackets are made on special order by Sierra Bullets for Kenru Reloading Service, Rochester, N. Y.)

To get these results I have to select the jackets for concentricity, which I think is the most important step, and I weigh cores and take the greatest care in bullet making, even to re-drawing the lead wire to get rid of nicks and abrasions.

TESTING FOR JACKET WALL THICKNESS VARIATION:—I do my concentricity checking a bit differently than most. The bearings in my lathe are high precision ball bearings and I replace them at any sign of trouble. The spindle runs true in these within probably .0001". I chuck a piece of stock and turn a tapered, stub arbor which is just a snug push-fit for the jackets. This is not too difficult since the "My Special" jackets are a straight taper inside. The arbor is left in the chuck for all working and testing of one batch of jackets and a new arbor turned up the next time, because it is impossible to remove and recheck the arbor to the required accuracy.

After turning, the arbor will run dead true, as checked with a dial indicator. The arbor may be out of round within the limits of error of the spindle bearings, but since the jacket is stretched to conform to the arbor, when jackets are pushed on tightly with the thumb, the indicator reading on the jacket O. D. is a pretty reliable indicator of uniformity of jacket wall thickness. I turn a little relief groove on the arbor at the mouth of the jacket so they can be removed easily by inserting a screw driver and twisting.

Since the indicator is held in the lathe tool post, it can be traversed and readings taken at any point along the jacket. This shows up some interesting things. Jackets may show good uniformity around one point along their axis and not at others. I have always thought of the variation in wall thickness as simple eccentricity, but have found some jackets with 2 or 3 lobes.

The accuracy of the test depends to a large degree on the skill with which the arbor is turned and the fit of the jackets as they are pressed on it. The test of accuracy is repeatability of results. I have many times marked the errors in the jacket wall, as first indicated, removed, replaced and retested the same jacket and had identical results.

Of the .30 cal. 1.150" "My Special" jackets of the lot that I have, about 15% to 20% will indicate within .0002" (total indicator reading). These are precision grade, as I grade them. Some 5% to 10% will run .0005" to as high as .001". These are rejects, used for setting up dies, warmers, offhand practice. They are the ones that give that "off" shot or two in groups made using unselected components. Balance of jackets are standard grade. Groups made with bullets using each of the above compare with one another exactly as one would expect, with the reject jackets giving groups as large as 6" to 6 1/2" at 300 yards, depending on the random orientation of jacket eccentricities, as the cartridges are loaded into the chamber.

Since I started playing with the .30 caliber dies, and found it harder to make good bullets than with my .224 B&A dies, I have been re-reading some of the articles on bullet making and checking out various theories.

CORE "BLEED-BY" I am completely in agreement with Crawford Hollidge and the many other bullet makers who indicate the necessity for using the exact core seating punch to fit core length and jackets being used, so there is no extrusion of lead around

the punch. Slitting jackets with a jewelers saw and peeling them off, shows that any lead extruded around punch is not likely to be uniform around diameter and that it tends to produce folds and a difference in drag on the lead core against jacket wall as the lead flows forward during bullet forming. This tends to leave the end of the core lop-sided at the bottom of the open point cavity. Cores seated with a properly fitted punch are more uniform in their contour at the bottom of the open point cavity and give better balance, more accurate bullets. Proper core seating requires a punch within .0001" of correct size, if one is trying to form bullets of a specific weight, or adjustment of the weight to match (the punch fit).

CORE "STRESS-RELIEF" I have not found anything to indicate that there is any basis in fact in the practice of allowing formed cores and seated cores to "stress-relieve" themselves at room temperature. It may help the shooter psychologically, but it accomplishes nothing, according to the metallurgical text books. This can be found in any good metallurgical text books, usually indexed under "Recrystallization," or if not separately indexed, in chapters on forging or cold-working.

The recrystallization temperature is defined as the minimum temperature of heating a metal which destroys the effects of cold working. Most text books include a table of recrystallization temperatures for pure metals, but information on alloys is harder to find. Recrystallization temperatures of some of the common metals are listed below (quoted from Metal Process Engineering by Woldman):

Metal	Temperature Degrees Fahrenheit
Aluminum	300
Copper	900
Iron	850
Lead	*
Molybdenum	1600
Nickel	1100
Silver	400
Tin	*
Tungsten	2100
Zinc	*

*—The recrystallization temperature of these metals is below room temperature.

"At temperatures below the recrystallization range, metals will strain harden under cold working. When working is done above this temperature, such limited strain-hardening as does occur is relieved by almost instantaneous annealing. This is called "hot working." The process of working a metal at temperatures above its recrystallization range can be carried out almost continuously."

.....

"Lead is really 'hot-worked' at room temperature, because its recrystallization temperature is below room temperature." (Quoted from "Engineering Materials and Processes"—United States Naval Institute, Annapolis, Md.)

QUALITY JACKETS: Incidentally, I think that the concentricity and uniformity of the Sierra jackets is excellent, if one takes into account the possible and probable sources of error. The copper-alloy sheet from which the blanks are punched, while it looks so smooth and uniform to the eye, actually varies slightly in composition, thickness and hardness within an individual sheet, not to mention sheet to sheet variations. These result in minute differences in its punching and drawing characteristics. When you add to this the slight errors in punches, dies, and machines, the jackets are really fantastically good! I think impact extrusion might offer possibilities of better jackets than the punch cup and draw process, but I have heard nothing about its being used in jacket manufacture.

"A NATION OF MARKSMEN?"

In Rebuttal

by W. John Farquharson

One of the most important points in writing any type of gun article is to stick to the facts and to avoid mass condemnation of any type or kind of professional people.

Fearing that I had spread myself in dealing with some of the gun editors who do write-ups on the latest weapons, Mr. William Dresser of the American Rifleman staff took down the boxing gloves to dust me off. Some of the points he has made are very well taken. For example:

Number 1. Competitive shooters wanting competitions restricted to NRA Match Rifle, or strictly target weapons. Yes. This is, unfortunately, all too true, even in Canada. I've had some sad experiences along this line myself. On the other hand, the Blair Range boys in Vancouver, B. C. were first to propose a "Wimbledon-type" two range contest for sporting rifles during the annual week's shoot. Tony Neimi, here in Winnipeg, shoots a .30-06 Heavy Barrel Model 70 and aperture sights against anything and anybody in the twice-yearly Winnipeg Game & Fish Assn. sponsored Game Rifle Shoot held each spring and autumn on St. Charles Range. Tony has frequently ended up as high as Second and Third Place in the GRAND AGGREGATE (200, 300, 500, 600 yds.) against the latest and best of modern scoped sporters. Both shoots, in B. C. and Manitoba, are quite popular and well attended.

The reason I submitted an account of our past Spring Rifle Shoot, which appeared in the August/63 "FIRING LINE" official magazine of the California Rifle & Pistol Assn., was to encourage those who had tried the two special 600 yd. Game Rifle Matches, just for sporting rifles, held this year during the California State Rifle Championships.

Point Number 2. Sighting shots in the Game Rifle Championships. I have often wished that more Camp Perry shooters would come up whenever possible so we could learn more from each other. In my own opinion, certain aspects of the National Matches are excellent and are more the mark of a truly "all-round" marksman than are our own strictly prone matches. I refer to (a) no "sighting" shots, (b) offhand, and (c) sitting matches with the same rifle used in prone deliberate shooting. These are the positions a shooter will use (with modifications) on the battlefield or in game country. Fundamentally, Mr. Dresser is correct. No sighting shots should be included in the Game Rifle Championships.

Point Number 3. Champions. There is no reason in the world why Mr. Dresser can't be as much of a Champion as any of the present title-holders. What is a shooting champion? He is the person who takes a little more time and trouble with each shot than do the others. He avoids the R-Ring like the plague. Since he makes fewer mistakes than anyone else, he ends up higher in the aggregate and, so he wins. If more shooting champions would take up the pen and the typewriter in the same effective manner that they handle their favourite match winners, it could be that there would be much less foolish talk about near "minute-of-angle" hunting rifles. The rifle tests, I believe, would be better set up, more inclusive and thorough.

Point Number 4. Necessary and expensive purchase of target rifles. I can only state what goes on in Canada regards target shooting with the military rifle. The Provincial Associations operate under the Dominion of Canada Rifle Assn., the governing body for all fullbore (your term—"High Power") target shooting. Now, any sportsman who wants to enjoy our target practice at the weekly range shoots can do so at nominal cost. Joining any Provincial

Rifle Assn., costs about \$3.00, plus 50¢ or a \$1.00 fee for the markers who operate the targets. The man can join any Militia Unit Rifle Assn., and be issued with a suitable rack rifle and plenty of ammunition. Frequently, his rifle can be adjusted up to D. C. R. A. competition standards by an armourer—at no charge. The shooter must save his empty brass and return it in order to get more practice ammunition. That is all there is to it. The pity of it is just how few realize how easy it is to become a military target shooter—at minimum expense. Many of our top marksmen have worked overtime on this problem—how to encourage more to enjoy the sport of shooting—without incurring heavy expenses. This is the end result.

Your own D. C. M. operates, I believe, along somewhat similar lines.

Point Number 5. On behalf of the NRA, protesting against "wholesale indictment" of gun experts and writers. The "American Rifleman," "Precision Shooting," and one or two other magazines stand as islands of sanity in a sea of despond. Even though other, lesser publications went into lyrical ecstasies over some new rifle or cartridge, I have often withheld judgment or comment until I have personally read about it in the Rifleman's test reports. The chances are, the Rifleman's panel of experts have come much closer to the truth.

To indicate the difference between leadership and followers; ones who give up any pretence of leadership and merely cater to the idle whims and fancies of some readers:—take a look at the following incidents:

Item: Well-known shooting expert takes the new Remington 700 Rifle in 7 mm Remington Magnum to Alaska and poses behind a dead Brown Bear. Inch-high black type proclaims that this calibre and rifle will kill, period.

This sort of thing must make two old Alaskan sourdoughs, now long gone to the Happy Hunting Grounds, turn over like revolving doors in their graves. The late Jay Williams and Hosea Sarber killed barge-loads of the huge bruins using, I think, the 172 grain Western Tool & Copper Works open-point boat-tail bullet in the .30-06 Springfield sporter handloads. The question begs itself, which calibre was better "proven?"

Item: Publisher of gun magazine flies to Alaska to bag Alaskan Brown Bear with .44 Magnum revolver. He is backed up by a guide packing a heavy rifle.

A "MACLEAN'S" zoo article dealt with caged bears endangering their keepers with superhuman feats of strength. A line of type that leaped out at me was the one that goes, quote, "... the strength of Bears (Grizzly) can only be equalled by heavy road-grading equipment," unquote. A hungry 600 pound Grizzly will tackle and no set-up. A beach prowling Alaskan Brownie has been known to make a silent, kill a 1000 pound winterbound Bull Moose, dead-weight lift of more than 800 pounds from a deep ditch, without disturbing the sleep of the fisherman one thin wall's thickness away from the bear. A full grown Alaskan or Kodiak Brown Bear on his home ground, amid tangled undergrowth, is a truly formidable proposition. Fearing nothing—except man, he is the true "Muscle Boss Of The Woods," he can tackle anything—and win. Knowing his own territory to the foot, the Huge Bruin can sneak up and charge the hunter unawares—turning him into the hunted.

Yet, this mental bantamweight went up against odds like this, armed with only a pistol. With game getting scarcer, stiffer hunting laws, and impressionable readers to think about—what a fine example to set for others.

Item: A full color spread about 300 yard chuck hunting with pistols appears in

(Continued on Page Seventeen)

National Bench Rest Shooters Association, Inc.

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NBRSA MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual annual dues \$5.00 (includes magazine subscription for membership term). Associate member (wife or husband, son or daughter under 18 years of age, of member in good standing—no magazine) \$2.50. Life membership, \$75.00. Annual club affiliation fee \$10.00.

CORRECTION

It has been learned that Mr. John I. Moore offered to provide ONE trophy for Sporter Class at the National Championship Shoot instead of three trophies (for the two Varmint classes and Sporter class), as reported in the Minutes of the NBRSA Directors' Annual Meetings (Nov. issue, page 11, third col., next to last paragraph).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the fire of another year is burning low and December blows a dusting of snow over the hills, and over the valleys. There is a lovely feeling when the world turns white. There is also a sadness when the last page of the calendar appears before us. This is the natural condition of man, I think—to be reluctant to let go the known and face toward the unknown.

The days grow shorter now, and this I do not like. I am addicted to long dreamy twilights. I look back to the early mornings when I found myself on the rifle range or in the field hunting varmints, and compare those hours of daylight with our present to only find total darkness.

This year has brought us many happy hours together on the firing line. Records have been broken and rebroken, which I know brought an undscribable happy feel-

ing to the winner. New shooters are appearing at the ranges and letters are coming in inquiring about our organization. The American Rifleman, Sports Afield and others have given us a great considerable amount of recognition and we should give them a hand of thanks for the superb write-ups. At all our National Championship Meets they are always on hand to get the necessary data on the shoots.

I plan to make a winter visit to the range in Texas and to pay a visit at the range where the 1964 National Sporter and Varmint Matches are to be held. The last report I had was that the new range was over 75% completed and that was over a month ago. While there I will try my hand at varmint shooting "Texas style" with Bob McLaren and P. Bonner. These two men have been putting their all in seeing that the coming Nationals in their state will be a success.

Another item has been called to my attention which I think each member should be informed on and report their favor to their directors. This will be on the agenda for the 1964 meeting. It is as follows: THE AWARDED OF CO-HOLDER WORLD RECORD CERTIFICATES. I wish to quote a letter received Nov. 30, 1963 by our Secy., Mrs. Bernice McMullen to our Chairman of the Measuring Committee, Mr. A. J. Fruend. It is as follows: "I can find only two instances where there have been any definite decisions made on this matter. First, in June of 1957 at Custer, S. D., Bruce Pheasant fired a 5-shot group at 100 yds. with heavy varmint rifle, measuring .2273. He was awarded a record certificate for this target (written up in July, 1957 P. S.). On July 14, 1957 at Altoona, Pa., Clarence Deem fired a 5-shot group at 100 yds. with heavy varmint rifle officially measured at .2263 and was awarded a co-holder certificate. This was during Ed McNally's term of office and I believe he made the decision. (written up in September 1957 P. S.)

Next came my target of 10 shots at 100 yds. with unrestricted rifle fired at Richmond, Indiana on October 22, 1961. Cline Deere had fired his record target at .1694 at Johnstown, N. Y. during the "Nationals" in September, 1961. Although my target was measured at .170, it was declared a co-holder. This, I immediately protested to Bob Hart by phone, but my protest was ignored. (I don't know whether he contacted the directors on this or not. Probably Al can say whether he did or not.) Later, in a letter Bob said there had been a precedent established whereby, if a target was within .001 of the current record either way they were to be co-holders.

It is my opinion that this is definitely wrong. I felt very bad to think I sneaked in on Cline Deere with a target larger than his. My only consolation on the whole thing was that Cline's was fired from a mechanical rest and mine was from sand bags. I have had three records and I felt real good about two of them, but I by no means wish to steal part of someone else's glory. To me a record should have to be definitely broken to receive a certificate. We could one day find ourselves with a dozen or more holding certificates for the same thing, and in my book this cheapens the whole idea. (Strictly my own opinion.)

I am sending Al the co-holder certificate and will leave matters up to him" end of quotation.

My hat is off to you Bernice. I know a great many shooters feel the way you do for they have spoken to me on this. I can find nothing in the minutes of the past meetings, (that I have in my possession) and cannot see where this co-holder certificate was voted on by the directors to

become legal. I take it for granted that Mr. McNally decided to do this on his own during his presidency. During my term in office I feel I have no authority to issue another co-holder certificate until it is shown to me in the minutes of the past meeting of the directors and passed.

I shall table the present certificate I have in my possession until the above has been presented to me otherwise this will be voted on in Tulsa in 1964 and if passed this certificate will be signed by me and awarded to the rightful owner.

To this date I do not know of any President who has in his possession all the minutes of the past meetings. I know questions have been asked in the past to Presidents of things that happened unbeknowns to them. Before I leave my office of President I hope to have in my possession ALL the minutes of the past meetings so I can pass them to the new President so he won't be in my position when the question or complaint arises.

Another complaint that has come to attention is the awarding of National Matches, to different areas. This has been a tough subject which can cause a weakening of our organization unless it is done legally. I will not cover this in this issue until I procure the minutes of the 1954 meeting in Custer, S. D. as I am in question if it was a verbal agreement, voted on, or just a precedent establishment.

Several members have complained that the Eastern Region is entitled to two National meets to one of the combines following regions, Miss. Valley Region, North Central Region, Gulf Region, Mid-Continent Region, Northwest Region, and Southwest Region. For example, the M. V. R. would not be able to hold another National varmint and sporter match for 18 yrs. which would be 1982 should each region pick a shoot meet and the East get two years for each region in the west.

This will be acted on in the 1964 Agenda also.

In behalf of the N. B. R. S. A., all Directors, Secy., and all members; may you be blessed with a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred W. Walter
President, NBRSA

NOTICE OF EASTERN REGION MEETING

The Annual Winter Meeting of the Eastern Region will be held at the Mark Twain Hotel at Elmira, New York, on January 25th and 26th, 1964. The meeting will start at 10:00 A. M. on Saturday morning January 25th.

All members and particularly club representatives are urged to attend.

The match schedule for 1964 will be established at this meeting.

The agenda will also include a treasurer's report, committee reports from standing and special committees, and of course any and all new matters and proposals.

We ask each club, if at all possible, to send a representative with authority to make requests for dates and to act for the club. If you cannot have a personal representative present, write to either the Deputy Directors or myself, indicating your requests for match dates, specific match requests, alternatives if any, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Brunon V. Boroszewski
Director Eastern Region
Chestnut Ridge Road
Orchard Park, New York

DECEMBER 1963

1964 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES FOR UNRESTRICTED BENCHREST RIFLES

The Tulsa Bench Rest Rifle Club has selected the dates of September 16, 17, 18 and 19 for the firing of the 1964 National Championship matches for unrestricted benchrest rifles. The matches will be fired on the John Zink Rifle Range near Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the 1958, 1960 and 1962 Championships were held.

Further information about the 1964 matches will be published as it is made available.

The Tulsa Bench Rest Rifle Club contact person is; R. G. Berry, Secretary, Pawnee, Oklahoma.

1964 NATIONAL VARMINT & SPORTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Location, range and other facilities)

The following information is supplied by Mr. J. L. Bonner, Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Bench Rest Shooters Ass'n, Box 606, Cross Plains, Texas. Mr. Bonner will be the contact person for specific information about the 1964 National Varmint and Sporter Championships.

The entirely new range being constructed by the West Texas Sportsman Club, on which the National Shoot will be held, is located 7 miles from downtown Abilene. Abilene is a city of 97,000 population, located nearly due west from Fort Worth and slightly north-east from San Angelo.

Mr. Bonner estimates the new range is 90% completed as of November 15th. It faces north-east 47 degrees. There are 20 concrete benches on concrete-block legs, 42 inches square, 34 inches high, and 78 inches apart, center to center of bench. They are arranged on a 12 X 125 feet covered concrete slab. A 12x12 feet house adjoins the slab on the back side, and 30 feet back of the house is a 20 X 60 feet shed for reloading, equipment, etc. At both the 100 yard and 200 yard range the elevation will be within two feet, in relation to the benches.

There is ample parking and camping space. There will be satisfactory sanitary facilities at the new location and immediately across the highway at the old range is our 40 X 60 feet club house. This building is air conditioned, has rest rooms, kitchen, and plenty of room for those wishing to bunk in it. The old bench range will be open at all times for practice when it is necessary to close the new one.

Abilene has two large hotels and a dozen or more first class motels. There will be three meals served each day at the range, catered by some civic organization or commercial firm.

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce is cooperating with the West Texas Sportsman Club in publicizing the championship shoots on the new range (two Texas State Championships as well as the National in 1964) and has already supplied an initial press release announcing the 1964 shoots. Information regarding Abilene, its facilities and attractions, may be obtained by requesting it from the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

It appears that the Texas folks are going all out to make these 1964 National Championships a pleasant experience to be long remembered, so, don't forget those dates—AUGUST 7th, 8th and 9th.

P. H. T.

NEW BENCH REST RECORDS

(Not previously reported)

New records reported by the Secretary, officially judged since the publication of records in the August 1963 issue, and in addition to the records made and judged at the National Varmint and Sporter shoot and reported in September issue, are:

BARBARA SCHELLERT, St. Louis, Mo. Heavy Varmint class 200 yard aggregate of .3462 M.O.A. Fired at St. Louis, Mo., May 27, 1963.

WILLIAM SCHELLERT, St. Louis, Mo. Heavy Varmint class 5-shot group at 100 yards measuring .1039 inch. Shot at St. Louis, Mo., May 27, 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Schellert shot identical rifles and loads; .222 Imp. in Hart barrels on Shilen actions, gunsmithed and stocked by Shilen. Both used Lyman 20X scopes and load of 26 grs. Ball powder, home-made bullets and Remington primers.

FRANCIS H. BENTRUP, St. Louis, Mo. Light Varmint class 5-shot group at 100 yards measuring .1973 inch. Shot at St. Louis, Mo., July 21, 1963. He shot a .222 cal. Sako factory rifle with load of 21½ grs. 3031, home-made bullets and Remington primers and used a Lyman 15X scope.

CLYDE BONNELL, Pine City, N. Y. Heavy Varmint class 5-shot group at 200 yards measuring .2133 inch. Shot at South Creek Rod & Gun Club range, Fasset, Pa., July 14, 1963.

Mr. Bonnell shot a .222 cal. in Hart barrel on Shilen action which he gunsmithed and stocked himself. He used a Lyman 20X scope and his load was 20.7 grs. 4198, 51.5 gr. bullet and Remington primers.

Bench Rest Match Reports

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

A Heavy Varmint class match was fired on the Benchrest Rifle Club of St. Louis range the night of September 28th with 12 competitors. Conditions were good until the last two matches at 100 yards. Then the wind really started to blow, resulting in quite a few people getting big groups.

The aggregate rankings were:

	100 yd.	200 yd.	Grand
Frank Murtel	.3724	.4928	.4326
A. M. Freund	.4430	.4815	.4622
A. J. Freund	.4780	.4514	.4647
W. E. Espy	.5488	.4556	.5022
Harry Ferris	.4680	.5485	.5082
B. Schellert		.4289	

A Sporter class match was fired the night of October 12th with 6 shooters competing. The wind blew all the time and it was quite an interesting shoot, although the aggregates were nothing to brag about.

	100 yd.	200 yd.	Grand
Tom Gillman	.5582	.6540	.6061
A. M. Freund	.6866	.6347	.6606
A. D. Powell	.5510	.6894	.6202

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The Weather man must be a secret member of the Modesto Rifle Club because it rained Saturday, beautiful sunshine on Sunday, November 3rd, and then clouds and rain on Monday. This has happened several times before, but I think the conditions were the best for this bench rest tournament.

This was a one day tournament with all shooting done at 200 yards on the club's new cement firing line with six good, new benches. There were three classes of rifles; Open Bench, Heavy Varmint and Light Varmint. At our next tournament there will be a hunting rifle class. There were five matches of 10-shot groups for the open bench class and 5-shot groups for the heavy and light varmint classes. There was also a special match of one shot for center. You squirrel shooters may think this is easy since you probably can hit a squirrel every time; but in the eye?—Try it!

Open Bench Aggregate—M. O. A.

7 competitors

George Hendrick, Etna, Calif.	.5448 using 222 Mag.
Allan Hobbs, El Cerrito, Calif.	.5953 using 222 Rem.
George Fuller, Oakland, Calif.	.6385 using 222 Rem.

Henry Smith, Lodi, Calif.
.7876 using 220 Swift
Joe McPhillips, San Bruno, Calif.
.8023 using .308

Heavy Varmint Aggregate 11 competitors

Allan Hobbs	.4455 using .219 Don
Ed Suchan, Oakland, Calif.	.4871 using .219 Don
George Hendrick	.5528 using .222 Mag.
George Fuller	.5765
Thomas Squires, Sacramento, Cal.	.6068

Light Varmint Aggregate 10 competitors

Joe McPhillips	.6743 using .222 Rem.
Ed Suchan	.7035 using .222 Rem.
Joe Sweany, Calistoga, Calif.	.8347 using .222 Mag.
Duane Jenner, Modesto, Calif.	.8468 using .222 Rem.
R. J. MacDougall, Lodi, Calif.	1.0472 using .222 Rem.

The Modesto Rifle Club gave a trophy to the best all-around shooter, which was a sum of the three aggregates of all the guns they shoot. This award went to Allan Hobbs.

Duane D. Jenner

N. B. R. S. A., INC. REPORT Cost of National Championship Matches in 1963

AWARDS

Col. Whelen, Trophy "keeper"	\$25.00
Lariat ties	
Unrestricted	118.80
Varmint & Sporter	85.80
	204.60
National Championship	
Brassards	
Unrestricted	7.50
Varmint & Sporter	25.50
	33.00
Stool Shooter and	
Top-Twenty patches	43.20
	\$305.80

SCORING AND STATISTICAL COSTS Unrestricted National

Scoring	134.00
Cost of shoot reports	159.80
	293.80
Varmint & Sporter National	
Scoring	140.00
Shoot reports	161.48
	301.48
Mileage for Directors to Meetings	921.77
(For Directors from all regions except Eastern and Secretary-Treasurer.)	
Photos	10.00
Dinners (invited NRA reporters)	6.00
	16.00

Total cost—both National Shoots \$1838.85
(Note:—The Stool Shooter and Top-Twenty patches are quoted at the price paid in 1959. It will be necessary to purchase them this season and the price will no doubt be different. All other items are exact cost this year. Sec'y-Treas.)

A LETTER TO N. B. R. S. A. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

For a number of years I have checked the results of our larger shoots, particularly the National Championships, and always end up with the same impression, namely:—

The extremely high percentage of competitors who have been completely eliminated from the Grand Aggregate standings by disqualification or who have been practically eliminated for reasons over which they had no control.

(Continued on Page Twelve)

A Letter to Directors and Officers

(Continued from Page Eleven)

At those shoots where I was present I have checked on the disqualifications, etc., and in the great majority of cases have found that those competitors have either been the innocent victims of rules designed to prevent cheating or were victims of unusual conditions.

If our matches were in the same category as horse-racing, where racing luck is an expected and anticipated element, we'd have no problem, but benchrest shooting is based on a completely different viewpoint. Our primary goal is to determine as to how accurately a rifle may be made to shoot and how well the shooter can use it, eliminating, for the purpose of furthering this goal, the variables that tend to work contrary to this purpose.

It therefore seems inconsistent to continue to overlook a condition full of variables, particularly when this condition is of no benefit to the game and in all probability is harmful.

I am not naive enough to think that we can achieve perfection but I am convinced that there is a rather simple way of making a worthwhile improvement over the present procedure.

All we have to do is still shoot six matches each day, applying the rules on disqualifications as now in the rule book as far as the individual match is concerned, but selecting the five best targets of the day for determining the aggregates.

Since first proposing this method back in 1958, I have written an article on it for Precision Shooting, talked with shooters at shoots, at meetings and by mail. I honestly believe that there are more shooters who lean toward this plan than who oppose it.

I use the words "lean toward this plan" and "oppose it" deliberately as I find that with few exceptions very, very few shooters have taken enough of their time to really study the plan and fully understand what it has to offer. As a result "lean toward the plan" is about all that can be expected. People don't enthuse over matters they don't fully understand but they do have the capacity for "opposing" matters on which they are poorly posted. In many cases, the less knowledge the greater the opposition.

At the 1963 Championships several of you Directors and Officers talked with me about the plan and showed considerable interest and as a result I promised to recap the result sheets listing all competitors according to the present official method and then refigure all aggregates on the best five matches of the day basis and list them according to their standings on that basis. You will find those recaps on the last pages of this letter.

The 1963 Championship results only tend to reconfirm my previous convictions that disqualifications from the aggregates can be reduced, or eliminated without hurting the game and that the best five targets of each competitor for each shooting day is a much better criterion of the inherent accuracy of the rifles on the firing line and the ability of the shooters than is the present method of using five specified matches of the six shot during the day.

At the 1963 Championships we had 75 shooters who fired the full course of fire for the four days. We had 7 additional shooters who fired but one, two or three days. My figures will deal ONLY with the 75 who fired the full course.

Of the 75 who fired the entire course, 11 were officially disqualified for one reason or another and were not eligible for rating in the present system of determining aggregates. That's 14.5%.

Two other of the 75 were declared disqualified but upon protest a re-examination of the backing targets disclosed what could have been doubles and were re-instated. Both of those easily could have been finally disqualified and if they had the percentage would have been 17.3%.

In addition, five were disqualified in the warm-up matches. Luckily for them they were not eliminated from the aggregates but that was pure luck, so the actual potential under the present rules is that we very easily could have had 18 out of our 75 shooters disqualified and that would have brought the percentage up to 24.0%.

When you sit and reflect that these

STUDY OF THE PRESENT N. B. R. S. A. METHOD OF DETERMINING AGGREGATES COMPARED TO THE BEST FIVE TARGETS EACH DAY, AS APPLIED TO THE STANDINGS OF COMPETITORS AT THE 1963 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOOT.

Pos.	Competitor	Agg.
1	Paul Gottschall	.4737
2	L. E. Wilson	.4745
3	Wm. Schellert	.4853
4	E. Stolle	.4873
5	R. Stolle	.4981
6	Cline Deere	.5034
7	L. F. Carden	.5035
8	O. Rinehart	.5116
9	A. Glendenning	.5119
10	C. Yockey	.5253
11	J. W. Mayer	.5359
12	A. Hobbs	.5433
13	I. Potter	.5473
14	H. Culver	.5534
15	L. S. Rucker	.5569
16	E. Scafuri	.5593
17	A. Angerman	.5649
18	F. Pindell	.5713
19	B. Boroszewski	.5811
20	G. Kelbly	.5934
21	D. E. Frost	.5970
22	E. Wenkenbach	.6050
23	Lyle Heap	.6056
24	L. Engelbrecht	.6067
25	B. Schellert	.6072
26	R. Cornelison	.6085
27	Walt Berger	.6163
28	T. Jackson, Jr.	.6230
29	Geo. McMullen	.6240
30	C. Benjamin	.6247
31	Andy Fazio	.6366
32	James Pope	.6378
33	C. Aumiller	.6381
34	T. Boughton	.6458
35	D. Whittington	.6525
36	T. Manganello	.6590
37	Olin Davis	.6699
38	Robt. Stinehour	.6774
39	A. Walter	.6831
40	Ed Shilen	.6874
41	W. Purcell	.6961
42	Ed McNally	.7186
43	C. Kingsley	.7237
44	A. Banker	.7323
45	Virginia Jones	.7413
46	C. Hollidge	.7528
47	Ray Speer	.7550
48	W. Titus	.7619
49	A. Garcelon, Sr.	.7669
50	Royal Alvis	.7822
51	L. Nuesslein	.8064
52	Marie Spencer	.8250
53	S. Guca	.8312
54	John Farrell	.8335
55	G. Southard	.8343
56	E. L. Beecher	.8357
57	Linus Douglas	.8431
58	Henry Spencer	.8728
59	E. Seymour	.8748
60	G. Fullmer	.8845
61	Geo. Wyatt	.9068
62	A. Garcelon, Jr.	.9110
63	Andy Brower	.9208
64	M. Schneck	.9982
65	none	
66	none	
67	none	
68	none	
69	none	
70	none	
71	none	
72	none	
73	none	
74	none	
75	none	

shooters came long distances, at their own expense, to compete in a game that supposedly discards variable and yet were disqualified on the first, some on the second, others on the third day of the shoot and from that point on had little if any further interest in the most important item, the Grand Aggregate, about the kindest thing one can say about the situation is, that it's ridiculous.

Assuming, for the sake of argument, that you do agree that this is ridiculous, just what alternatives do we have in attempting to correct it?

We could change the rules, but we'd have to change at least three rules as all three of the following were involved. 1)

Pos.	Competitor	Agg.	Comment
1	L. E. Wilson	.4070	was 2nd
2	E. Stolle	.4141	was 4th
3	Cline Deere	.4259	was 6th
4	Paul Gottschall	.4300	was 1st
5	R. Stolle	.4302	no change
6	O. Rinehart	.4508	was 8th
7	Wm. Schellert	.4603	was 3rd
8	C. Yockey	.4742	was 10th
9	I. Potter	.4765	was 13th
10	F. Pinedll	.4785	was 18th
11	A. Glendenning	.4863	was 9th
12	A. Hobbs	.4888	no change
13	E. Scafuri	.4904	was 16th
14	L. F. Carden	.4970	was 7th
15	C. Aumiller	.5074	was 33rd
16	J. W. Mayer	.5140	was 11th
17	H. Culver	.5156	was 14th
18	L. S. Rucker	.5178	was 15th
19	B. Boroszewski	.5197	no change
20	A. Angerman	.5207	was 17th
21	Geo. McMullen	.5224	was 29th
22	E. Wenkenbach	.5270	no change
23	R. Cornelison	.5310	was 26th
24	Lyle Heap	.5321	was 23rd
25	B. Schellert	.5320	no change
26	T. Jackson, Jr.	.5417	was 28th
27	James Pope	.5417	was 32nd
28	Robt. Stinehour	.5449	was 38th
29	T. Boughton	.5459	was 34th
30	L. Engelbrecht	.5483	was 24th
31	D. Whittington	.5529	was 35th
32	G. Kelbly	.5537	was 20th
33	Andy Fazio	.5570	was 31st
34	M. K. Miller	.5621	was disq.
35	T. Manganello	.5644	was 36th
36	D. E. Frost	.5667	was 21st
37	Walt Berger	.5736	was 27th
38	A. Banker	.5788	was 44th
39	C. Benjamin	.5813	was 30th
40	Royal Alvis	.5831	was 50th
41	Ed Shilen	.5838	was 40th
42	B. McMullen	.5888	was disq.
43	Ed McNally	.5955	was 42nd
44	Olin Davis	.6138	was 37th
45	A. Walter	.6170	was 39th
46	W. Purcell	.6384	was 41st
47	Frank Murdock	.6549	was disq.
48	E. L. Beecher	.6624	was 56th
49	Ray Speer	.6626	was 47th
50	John Kohlor	.6685	was disq.
51	A. Garcelon, Sr.	.6745	was 49th
52	P. Horowitz	.6758	was disq.
53	Leo Stanton	.6768	was disq.
54	W. Titus	.6906	was 48th
55	C. Hollidge	.6922	was 46th
56	C. Kingsley	.6969	was 43rd
57	Ray Jones	.7168	was disq.
58	Virginia Jones	.7207	was 45th
59	L. Nuesslein	.7283	was 51st
60	G. Fullmer	.7330	no change
61	John Farrell	.7405	was 54th
62	Marie Spencer	.7409	was 52nd
63	E. Seymour	.7522	was 59th
64	Andy Brower	.7582	was 63rd
65	Linus Douglas	.7616	was 57th
66	G. Southard	.7798	was 55th
67	Geo. Wyatt	.7966	was 61st
68	Henry Spencer	.8030	was 58th
69	S. Guca	.8056	was 53rd
70	A. Garcelon, Jr.	.8122	was 62nd
71	A. Rosenfield	.8336	was disq.
72	C. Carr	.8467	was disq.
73	M. Schneck	.8756	was 64th
74	D. Schneck	.9006	was disq.
75	W. S. Berriman	1.2678	was disq.

Backing targets didn't show ten shots. 2) Shots outside border or off target and not on another's target. 3) Mechanical failures and unable to finish in allotted time.

In this game as in all games there is a small percentage of those who would, if given the opportunity, take unfair advantage of their competition and our rules came into existence as a result of actual and painful experiences in order to protect the great majority of our shooters.

The rules are harsh but I seriously doubt that they could be eased enough to do any material good without opening the door to abuses which could bring us more troubles than we now have.

Much as I dislike the unreasonable number of disqualifications and much as I pity the honest competitors that are hurt by them, I'd rather have this than to run the risk of going back to the situations we had before the rules were tightened.

I am very much afraid that a change in the rules is not the solution and that we'd only be jumping from the frying pan into the fire. In my opinion the best 5 targets of the day system is not only simpler and more practical but also has the advantage of giving a better picture of performance.

I could go on for page after page, going into detail on the advantages of this method and then I could list the objections I have heard and give what I think is a complete rebuttal to every objection that has been given, but I see no point in doing so.

I think that all of you are genuinely concerned with making this game of ours as fair as possible and improving it where you can. Either you think this matter is important and worthy of consideration and possible correction, or you don't. If you think it has merits I'm sure you are intelligent enough to study out the pros and cons without prompting and if you don't think it has merit, what I'd have to say probably wouldn't influence you anyway, so I'm going to leave with these last few words.

When studying the recap sheets remember that the 5 best targets system is bound to change the standings in the present system. These changes may at first be distasteful but they are only so by comparison. If the best 5 system had been in use there would not have been this comparison. Just ask yourself this one question; "If I were going to buy a top benchrest rifle on its inherent accuracy or if I were going to bet \$1,000.00 on the ability of a particular benchrest shooter, which method would I honestly believe to be best able to prove which was the best rifle or the best shooter, the best five of six matches or some arbitrary five matches of the six?"

Perhaps this system should first be tried before it should be considered for adoption. There is no reason why you couldn't have it tried out at one or more of your matches during the 1964 season. I feel certain that if shooters tried it they'd approve of it. On the other hand, if there are any faults in the system, actual practice might disclose them.

If you have any questions that I can answer don't hesitate to write me on them.

Sincerely,
Ed McNally
Bahia Vista Estates
3901 Bahia Vista Street
Sarasota, Florida

COMMENTS: All competitors disqualified under present NBRSA rules and ineligible for Grand Aggregate standing were disqualified only for the match in which they disqualified and not for the aggregate under the 5 best target system. ALL competitors, disqualified or not, have better and in my opinion more realistic M.O.A. Grand Aggregates under the 5 best target system.

This is the fifth NBRSA National Championship shoot that I have recapped

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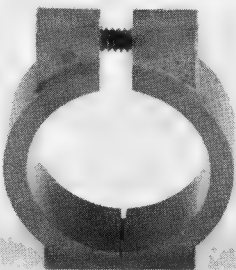
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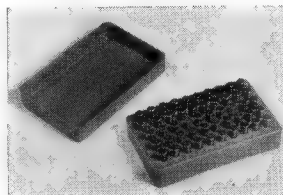
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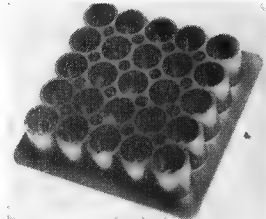


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under the two systems. The 5 best target system has changed the National Champion in but two years, this year and also in 1957. This year it would have cost Paul Gottschall the Championship. On the other hand, if it had been in use in 1957 it would have given Paul Gottschall the National Championship. I don't know how many of you were at the 1957 Championship but if you were I think that you will remember and agree that the outstanding shooter at the 1957 Championships was that same Paul Gottschall.

Note that the best 5 target system doesn't make the Championship easier to win. It makes it hard to come out on top. It keeps more competitors eligible, puts the game on a more even-Steven basis, gives everybody their best 20 targets for the four days of shooting. I can't think of a better and fairer way of deciding who is who.

(Editor's note: NBRSA President Al Walter has released this letter for publication in order that ALL NBRSA members may have the opportunity to study the proposal, and advise their Regional Director as to whether they approve or disapprove of it.)

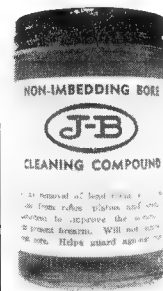
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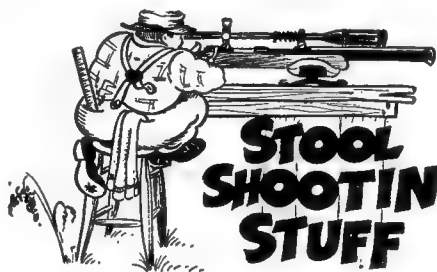
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ROY DUNLAP

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Dear Phil:

It is hard to believe that the hunting season and most of the year has already flown by. It seems only a short while ago that I was writing and telling about the number of Christmas cards I received and wishing all enjoyable holidays and a whole New Year of shooting pleasure. I repeat those same thoughts as I write this column. We have lost some good friends during the year but that is one of the hard ways of life and is compensated for by the new friends we have made. I can personally count many of them on my list and recognize in their characters that they will flow into the life blood of the benchrest game and enrich it.

An outstanding characteristic of benchrest shooters is that they have always been willing to put a great deal of themselves into the game. There seem to be no two fellows in it who are alike or even very similar in their physical make up or technique but almost without exception you will find that they all have that outgoing quality that does so much for the game. In my very early contacts with benchrest shooters, there was vividly impressed on my mind, the interest which older and experienced fellows took in trying to help the novice. We in the East for years have had the good fortune to have Harvey Donaldson and a host of other old timers who could draw upon a tremendous backlog of knowledge to pass on to the new shooter so that he might avoid going through tests and experiments that others had been through and for which answers had been found. I don't mean for an instant to indicate that these experienced shooters knew all the answers or gave that impression but they did know the fundamentals and were generous with their knowledge. Many developments have come along since I started and

with each new shooting season, we see the extension of an earlier developed trend and the infant steps of a new trend. Some of these new ideas are short lived and there are few among us who have not gone through the winter months developing something new that didn't work out quite as well as we anticipated as we reached the firing and competitive match season.

The Eastern region, for a number of years, has had an outstanding gathering of shooters who attend what is called a Winter Meeting. It is held in Elmira, New York at the Mark Twain Hotel and members and their wives take great pleasure in attending. This year it is to be held on January 25th and 26th and every shooter who can should try to attend. The business sessions, usually attended only by the men, have been the source of many sound developments throughout the Eastern Region as well as the National Organization. Some of the discussions have been red hot with what appeared to be a great separation between the two sides but in the great majority of cases, common sense has prevailed and I hardly recall an instance when the heat of these debates didn't simmer down to a normal tension by the time the fellows gathered at the breakfast, luncheon or dinner table. The informal bull sessions which both the men and women attend on Friday and Saturday evenings in one or more of the hotel suites are affairs never to be forgotten and conducive of much good cheer and good will. There, one meets old friends with the latest news or perhaps only a rumor. Displays of new products often appear and the dyed-in-the-wool experimenter shows or tells of his latest innovation. There are never chairs enough in one of these suites but I never knew of the liquid refreshments to reach a dangerously low level or the exuberance of the partakers to reach a dangerously high level. First, the chairs are used, quickly followed by every inch of sit down space on couch or bed, then the bureau drawers yield to the pressure and become stools. Finally, those who prefer to become squatters take to the floor if they are not actively engaged in the standing discussions going on in each corner. On those nights, I never plan to get to bed too long before dawn and always feel I wish I could be in on the discussion in each corner as they all seem equally interesting, but even a wide guy can't spread himself that thin. There

will be a room full of fellows you have seen shooting but their hair will be let down and the spirit of good will will equal or exceed that of any New Year's party you ever attended. It is your organization at work during the day time and at play after business hours. You should take part in it and I hope to see you at Elmira.

Without a doubt, one of the hottest subjects that will come up for discussion at the meeting will be that relating to the varmint and sporter class rifles as well as the possibility of adding a new class called the hunter rifle. I think Charlie Kingsley tried to point out quite clearly that we would not be in such a confusing situation if we listened a little bit more attentively to the rank and file of the shooters instead of following the wishes of a few who loudly assert that they have the right answers. Often these answers dictated the reforming of these rules to accommodate certain rifles or conditions. Following the change, there would be a rash of new and smaller groups, often made with rifles developed for the particular occasion. I frequently have heard it said that this has been the trend in all sort of rifle competition but it doesn't convince me that our changes have been for the good of the game. It seems crystal clear to me that something is retarding its growth and I suspect that nothing has influenced this condition so strongly as the development and revision of rules. I have often heard it said by some shooters that they do not want more people in the game—"let more people come in and it will be harder to accommodate them at most of the ranges." There is something truth in that but I must say that I enjoy the shoots more when there is enough time to relax and visit between the relays.

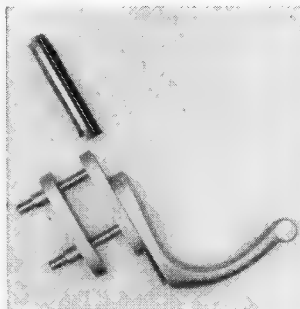
It was good to see the picture of young Joe Garcelon in the American Rifleman but one must not get the impression that there were many twelve year old shooters at the benchrest matches last year nor is it enough for the sons of the shooters to come infrequently into the game. We need youth and energy to come into it from every corner of our land, and to do that, we need a classification that is going to invite them and bring them along step by step until there are dozens of them in the National events. I don't mean by this that I favor over-the-counter guns or ammunition as a prerequisite of classification because I think this would be but a mockery and akin to the condition in the small bore game where only a certain few on the inside get arms and ammunition that are outstandingly superior. Indeed, to my mind, the great lure of benchrest shooting is the possibility of modifying one's arms or ammunition to get better results and if a new stock, barrel, trigger or chamber design will achieve greater accuracy and better satisfy the shooter, allow him to make those changes. This is not to say, either, that I favor building up rifles that will beat the rules, or at best, the spirit of the rules.

There were millions of people who were recently impressed by a horrible act of an assassin aided by the potential accuracy of today's rifles. The people who were most impressed were those who have the least knowledge of guns and there will be hundreds of crackpot ideas brought forth to handicap users of guns. I shudder to think of the hopeless position we would be in if the NRA, our organization and others had not for years been building a certain measure of respect for the members who have demonstrated throughout their communities that they are responsible and law abiding citizens who possess guns as an inherent right and more than any other citizens know and practice the proper uses these guns should be put to. No field user of a hunting or varmint rifle can fail to recognize the horrible wound that results when an accurately placed bullet strikes body tissue. Indoctrination and safety practices in the use of firearms materially reduce the number of hunting accidents that occur but

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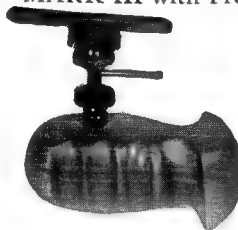
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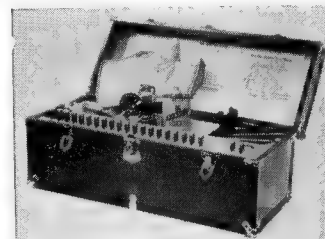
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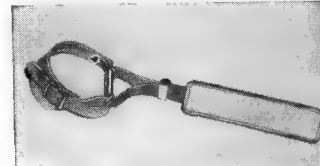
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the knowledge of the irreparable damage caused by a carelessly placed bullet is a great deterrent to thoughtless shooting. A Chicago mail order house has been castigated for the sale of a deadly and accurate weapon and a dozen new laws are being talked of to regulate mail order purchases. These laws should be carefully screened because the criminal can always obtain the tools for his trade. Bear in mind in this instance a much better rifle, the Springfield 03A3, could probably have been obtained from our Government at but little additional cost and been a far more valuable weapon. A certain amount of screening is done before such sales by the Government are made and it is hoped that all of them will go to places where the citizen may utilize them for his pleasure, familiarize himself with their use and capabilities, but more than anything else, have them at hand in a corner of his house where if the occasion ever occurs, he may reach for them to defend the liberty and security of his loved ones and country. We must not let this incident be the stepping stones for an action which the enemies of our country would be most happy to have occur—the disarming of the American public. These enemies include the softies, uninformed and do-gooders who naively think that words on a piece of paper will correct a condition or dissuade our enemies.

(Continued on Page Sixteen)

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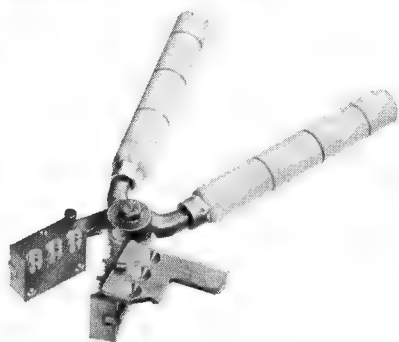


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Stool Shootin Stuff

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

I feel I must save some space in this column to answer those who are curious about the success or lack thereof which I had with my Nissan Patrol which I bought to get me off of the highways and as deep into hunting country as I could reach. It's really a remarkable little vehicle and I become more attached to it each day. It never let me down in itself and all of the troubles that it got into, I brought upon it.

I will start by telling of three minor mechanical complaints. First, the independent electric windshield wipers are really not rugged enough to take tough ice and snow conditions and they are objectionably noisy even if they operate in fog or rain. Probably American made replacements will correct this condition. One spark plug failed but with a slight modification, an American N5 plug brought me back to six cylinder operation. The location of the step suspended midway between the front and rear wheels piles up with mud and frozen slush as the front wheel throws it back so that it is practically useless as a step under these conditions. I corrected this by simply hanging a rubber flap between the front of the step and the back of the front wheel. Mud and snow tires on it might give more traction and a reduction of skidding characteristics. Perhaps it was the conditions that I operated under that made my brakes freeze up, even when they weren't applied when parking. I sometimes had to use low low to break the ice bond between the brake band and drum but these conditions were so rugged that I also would have to use considerable power to brake it loose from frozen mud or slush.

Merrie says that I can't really say that it didn't let me down and in so saying, she is thinking of several occasions where the letdown amounted to taking to foot or a matter of considerable delay due to jacking, winching or road building which sometimes amounted to cutting or hauling out sizable blowdowns that crossed our chosen jeep trail, many of which had never seen a vehicle before and over which many years previous logging sleds had been used. Merrie had some cause for complaint on one occasion early on the Maine hunt when I stood it almost squarely on its nose in the bottom of a brook after it went off the remains of an old logging bridge. The approach to this bridge was at almost a 45% grade and the high water ice of bygone Springs had floated off down stream most of the surface covering logs, leaving only the stringers to cross upon. These two logs seemed sound but were slightly wider than my wheel tread and both were covered with a little moss. Perhaps that moss accounted for the right wheel sliding off and causing the stringers to spread. At any rate, I was soon looking at white water bubbling over a brook bed of stones. This was a time when the hand winch and jacks were called upon. It was sometime later when we got the vehicle in a horizontal position and the stringer winched into a new position to better match the treads and we perhaps made thirty or forty passes over that bridge afterward using the stringers to run on and as far as we could tell, every other vehicle that got as far as the bridge turned back. On several other occasions, we went into a roadway which we were warned could not be traversed in a vehicle similar to ours. It was strewn with rocks from the size of a market basket to a bathtub with drop space between them that was much deeper than our road clearance. This is the type passageway that is referred to as an upland winter road and wouldn't have been too tough for lumber trucks when the surface above and between the stones was covered with frozen ice and hard packed snow. The four wheel drive came in mighty handy as we made a zigzag course, aiming for the stones upon which to obtain traction and as we clambored over the top of them, we never once made contact be-

tween stone and the protecting pan on the bottom of the vehicle.

On the day on which Merrie got her deer, we were well into the woods before daylight broke and had reached a long passage of swamp and mud in which the water was practically at floorboard level. This had been negotiable on previous days as the wagon is designed to go through considerable depth of water but on this occasion, we had had a good hard freeze since the last time we passed on the road and the ice was about 1½" thick. It wasn't solid enough to hold us but we crunched through until we got to the middle portion of the passage and at that point, we were stopped as the bumper and the undergear could not push the mass of ice in front of it, even though the wheels had a will to try to pull on what ground surface they could get hold of. A fine trace of snow had fallen during the hours before daylight and we decided to abandon the jeep and come back and try to extricate it at lunch time. This was probably a very lucky decision, certainly so for Merrie but not so for the 8 point buck which she got soon after.

Among the trees blown down by the previous weekend's severe windstorm was a large green cedar which fell upon the far reaches of our jeep trail. The tiny tracing of snow indicated that a deer had very recently been feeding on that cedar. Perhaps we had frightened it away or perhaps it might have been a doe—at any rate, the possibility that a buck might be following along or that the deer might return prompted me to suggest to Merrie that the tree might be a good place to keep one's eye on. It was a good location generally with a dark swampy area below the trail and some hardwood growth on the opposite side. Nearby on both sides there were some three year old pulp wood cuttings. I cut off at this point and headed for a chopping about a quarter mile away. Merrie and I both had Walkie Talkies but played it cozy to the extent of not using them during the early post-daylight hours. We were both contemplating a call to report a change of location just before 8 o'clock when Merrie saw a shadow change in the black growth at her left about 100 yards away. Her scope showed that it was a deer bouncing through but the growth was too thick and she had to lead it quite a distance before she found suitable shooting conditions. When it did pop into the narrow opening between a couple of trees which she had chosen, her rifle cracked. The home made 146 grain 7 m/m bullet hit the deer in the neck in front of the right fore shoulder, took off the top of its heart and pretty much demolished the lungs before passing out behind the left fore shoulder. Merrie saw it continue with no sign of a waving flag. She was just about to shoot again when the deer collapsed in death at the right hand shoulder of the jeep trail. It was quite a heavy 8 pointer and it could have been less accommodating and caused us some hard dragging. It makes it nice when you can lift one on to a vehicle as easy as was that one. This buck had a bob tail with only the slightest amount of white showing. Things wouldn't have been quite so bad for me if the news hadn't leaked out to the local paper here on Cape Cod under the headline "Wife brings home 8 point buck—husband brings home Christmas tree."

Well, that wasn't all the hunting I did. I had a very enjoyable Fall and anyway as you fellows well know who shoot with Merrie and me, I have been beaten before and so have some of you. We are both fortunate to be happy in enjoying the woods and having the time for many long days of it but we are also very fortunate in having so many fine shooting friends through our great country and to all of you, we send our very best of the Season's greetings. May your entire year be a happy healthy one and may you have your

full fair share of good targets and good times.

Cordially yours,

Crest Stahlclutter

"A Nation of Marksmen?"

(Continued from Page Nine)

national game magazine. (Sports Afield, Feb/63). Two people are attempting to shoot the .256 Hawkeye, 22 Jet, and .44 Magnum, all scoped, from a camera tripod rest.

Nowhere is there any mention of SAFETY in regards to the handling of pistols and handguns. Since the shorter barrel can, so easily, be pointed in any direction, iron self-control is absolutely necessary when pistol shooting, particularly when a couple of friends are free of the restrictions of the target range and are just out for "a day of fun." Accidents don't just happen. They are caused—through carelessness.

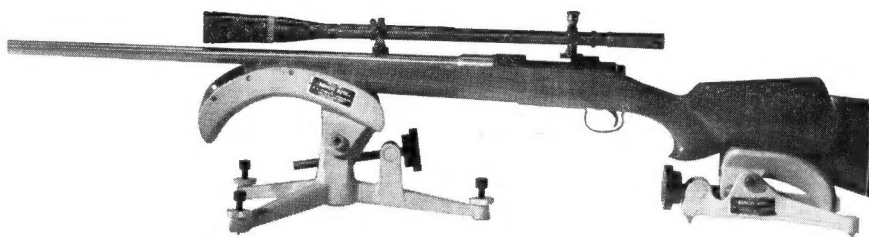
Another form of SAFETY that wasn't mentioned concerns the very real danger of ricochets. Even modern ballistics won't give a shorter pistol barrel the same velocities that can be obtained from a full length rifle tube. The slower the speed of bullet over 200 yards, the more chance there is of the jacketed slug whining out over the countryside, endangering the farmer's houses, livestock, family and possessions. This has happened here in Manitoba.

Third; the article failed to make any mention of yet another important point: "segmenting" or dividing the countryside into "safe" and "unsafe" shooting areas. The shooter must first note the direction and location of farm houses, livestock, men working in fields, etc., before he removes guns from cases. Since he is legally and morally responsible for the shot from muzzle until it lands, he is careful to shoot only at varmints in front of a hill that will stop any missed shot. With human nature being what it is, I'll lay you odds that 50 others tried this type of ill-considered shooting as soon as the magazine issue hit the newsstands. Promiscuous handgun "hunting" or shooting can close up areas of the country tighter than a drum with stiff anti-gun laws. Is this "stunt shooting" to be condemned,—or condoned?

In reply to "EXCERPTS FROM ONE LETTER," I will attempt to answer them one at a time.

Take a look at some old photographs of shooters in the latter part of the last century. The ones I've seen show a group in stove pipe hats and Prince Albert coats attending a weekend practice shooting off-hand with black powder rifles at 200 yards. From friendly groups like this came the master barrelmakers, gunsmiths and experimenters of the early 1900's, men like Pope, Schoyen, Mann and Neidner. These people were employers and the employed and, in a non-union era, worked much longer hours and thus had less free time than we enjoy today. Pride in marksmanship saw them regularly out on the range. To our 20th Century eyes, their clothes may seem funny—but they had HORSEPOWER. So much so that the Amateur Rifle Club of New York invited the crack Irish riflemen and their gunmaker, Rigby, over to America for the first of the great Creedmoor Matches back in 1874. This is roughly comparable to the Forest Hills tennis players inviting Wimbledon to come over for a visit.

If more of our rack sporting rifles could do as well prone at the same range that those old gentlemen could shoot, OFF-HAND; there would be no complaints from



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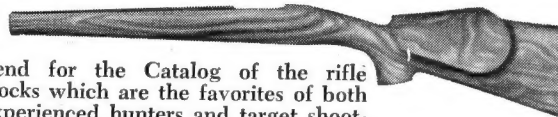
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this observer.

Now, about advertising and manufacturing guns—let's make sure we know precisely what we are talking about when we speak of "pleasing the majority." Publicity is Big Business nowadays. There are some very smart gentlemen inhabiting "Mahogany Rows" of many giant corporations loaded down with degrees in psychology whose sole purpose is to out-think the customer. Their job is to sell guns, period. The rate of attrition is high, but the rewards are great. Like the automotive manufacturers, there is evidence to suggest that the publicity men are capable of steering and guiding the public, to the company's benefit. Author Martin L. Gross, deals with this phenomenon in his book, "THE BRAIN WATCHERS," as does Vance Packard in his two books, "THE IMAGE BUILDERS," and "THE PYRAMID CLIMBERS." The publicity man has some powerful weapons in his arsenal directed against the sportsman and his wallet. Anything goes—from the use of words to create desire to depth questionnaires to psycho-analyze the customer's mind, to find out his beliefs, prejudices, hopes, desires, in fact; anything that will give them a clue as to how to make their firearms appeal to him. That this gun may not be suitable for this particular man, or, he may have no use for it; or even, that he can't afford the heavy monthly payments, hasn't anything to do with it. The publicity department's

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

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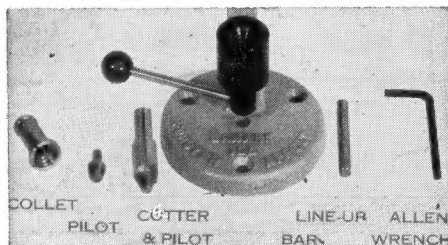
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"A Nation of Marksmen?"

(Continued from Page Seventeen)

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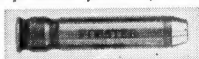
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sole purpose is to sell guns. And they will sell them—by gum.

It is no accident that the major companies sell many times as many semi-automatic .22's as single-shots. Result? A much greater volume of sales on ammunition.

A famous gun authority gave it as his opinion that the two things that must be deleted before hunters become safety-minded and better shots were; (a) the .22 cal. semi-auto, and (b) the cap pistol. The latter breeds criminal carelessness, and the former tries to make a stream of ill-aimed shots do the work of one well-placed shot.

It could be that the modern gun manufacturer is falling a victim of his own mechanical technology. These modern reproductive machines have an enormous appetite which must be fed. Volume sales seem to be the main way to keep these expensive machines running. Then, too, the production line must support an ever-increasing pyramid of office workers, all of whom must be paid from the profits of gun sales.

No one argues with the premise that the gun maker is in business for profit. It is HOW he makes his profit—that's what counts. Does he cater to need, or to greed? If, by buying his firearms, does a man become a better sportsman, a surer hunter, a safer shooter?

Studying the modern rifle and its accompanying literature, I have the distinct feeling that certain companies are in the business, not to make GUNS—but to make MONEY through GUNS. The end product, therefore, is not firearms but profit.

Our grand old Canadian writer, Gregory Clark of "PACKSACK" Column fame, puts the matter succinctly when he mentions that long ago, money was merely a by-product of industry. The old time enterprisers took so much pride in making better rifles, saddles, boots, pianos, and automobiles than anyone else that mere money assumed a minor place in life. Financial gain stole their wives and families away from these gentlemen, unless their fierce pride of craftsmanship overcame their greed. It might be hard to find a man today who looks upon money as only a by-product.

Apropos of this; a local store is pushing American arms because of surplus supply, European ones can only be had on special order. They had placed a Browning rifle beside a Remington and a Winchester. The Browning sold—the other two remain, yet all three were in the same price range.

Finally, the gun writers have many thousands who read their columns regularly and who look to these experts for advice. In view of the widespread trust accorded these gentlemen, might it not be advisable for some to forgo the annual get-together, in order to maintain that unbiased viewpoint so necessary to their craft? A gun editor of note writes that he first deposits all factory literature in something marked, "FILE-ROUND," before letting the sample rifle speak for itself and its maker.

American scopes are among the world's best—the mounts are something else. Before testing the Rem. 700 in 7 mm Magnum, Bushnell 3-9X, I had to have a \$20.00 special rear top mount made up, so the jutting scope could be shoved forward even with the end of action—otherwise I could lose my aiming eye when shooting prone. The rifle/scope combination had been through 20 expert's hands. Since they test from benches, this allows a wider latitude of eye relief and head positioning on the stock. Pulling the head back places the position under strain. Accuracy suffers accordingly. Now you know why this wasn't caught beforehand.

Those readers who have the "GUNS & AMMO" June/62 issue will note the notable photo of author Charles F. Waterman (RIFLES FOR PRONGHORNS) on page 40. One picture is worth ten thousand words. The author is down prone, using the adjustable sling properly—head positioned right behind the scope—left hand supporting the forend, relaxed; right hand firm and gripping. Here is the target range equated with the game field. Waterman's attitude is one of deadly intent. He looks as if he is going to hit something with his .243 M-70 Featherweight, 6X Leupold. I mentioned this picture because of its rarity. Our best writers won't give the target shooting aspects its just due by allowing themselves to be photographed while on the ranges.

Incidentally, the top score so far in the Individual Game Rifle Championships is 482-47V, out of a Possible 500-90V. This excludes Match No. 6.

The end result of any mass shooting and gun buying should be better preparation for fighting wars, either conventional—or atomic. In the end, everything depends upon the combat infantryman to take, and hold enemy ground. Can he? Let's listen a moment to Howard C. Sarvis, originator of the "TRAIN-FIRE" system of military marksmanship training. In his article, "THE C. I. MUST MEET THE HIDEOUS GOD," in the Feb/63 GUNS, he reports that even today, there is no comprehensive, continuous, long range program of marksmanship. Due to buck-passing, oversight, lack of foresight, delays, etc., Mr. Sarvis lays it right on the line when he maintains that the reason why Jimmie the soldier makes such a poor showing in combat—if he is a bum shot, we are all responsible.

Finally, let's end on a happier note.

The Oregon Game Commission has sponsored TV HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING. Of the 901 students who completed the course, only 4% failed to meet the 75% Pass Mark. Remington reports a series of TV shorts on hunting and sports to be shown on 200 TV stations. Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc., 3 East 54th Street, New York 22, N. Y., handle everything.

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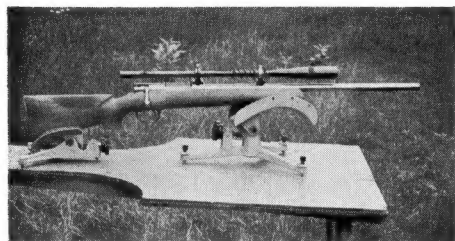
WANTED: PRODUCT. Reilly Machine Works, 445 Western Avenue, Albany, New York.

FOR SALE: UNERTL 2" target scope with 15X eyepiece in perfect condition for \$95.00. The scope was made for me after consultation with the late John Unertl. An eye trouble curtails my shooting and I have no further need for the scope. Cal Guiliams, 2800 Navajo, Big Spring, Texas.

GUNSMITHS: I'm overstocked with chambering reamers and gauges for some of the less popular calibers and will try to unload them by offering discounts of up to 65% off list. Some of these dogs would make fine roughers for the more modern calibers. If you're the curious type drop a line to: KEITH FRANCIS, TALENT, OREGON.

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CARTRIDGES FOR COLLECTORS: 40 page illustrated catalog #3, 50 cents. Over 2,000 items. James Tillinghast, Box 535, Marlow, New Hampshire.



Rifle in the Womack "Twin-Set" on a 200 yard range that the editor uses. The front rest is elevated to make the rifle point at the targets, which are some 15 to 20 feet higher than the bench top.

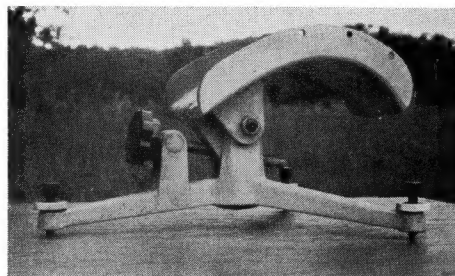
WOMACK BENCH REST RIFLE STANDS

After use testing my appraisal of the Womack Twin-Set Rifle Bench Rest Stands has to be mixed—between what I consider good and poor features.

Considering first the use of these rests for NBRSA competitive benchrest shooting; I can not see where this set of two rests has any practical use. The only NBRSA class of competition which permits mechanical rear rests of any type is the "Open" Unrestricted class. The rifles and rests used in this "Open" class of competition are very precisely "mated" to each other to assure that the rifle may be pushed forward after recoil to return to precisely the same point of aim for each of a series of shots. The rests have provision for precise adjustments in both the vertical and horizontal planes, to permit bringing the rifle to the exact point of aim desired, and keeping it there for shot after shot.

The Womack "Twin-Set" does not have any provision for mechanical adjustment in the horizontal plane in either front or rear rest. The rear rest, with its sharp pointed stud feet to keep it in place on the bench top, is almost impossible to move horizontally by hand to make the small adjustments to bring the rifle to the precise point of aim desired. In order to be of any use in the "Open" class competition, the rifle stock would need be specially made to precisely fit the trays of both rests. So, it would appear that these rests, as a "Twin-Set," are impractical for NBRSA benchrest competition. Personally, I do not find this Womack rear rest of any worthwhile aid in any of my shooting.

The Womack front rest, of unusual design, is a practical item and, in my opinion, has some desirable features.



The long, curved tray of the rest is hinge-pinned at its rear to the base. A short arm on the tray unit extends below the hinge-pin and carries at its end a threaded block, which is hinge-pinned on the arm. This threaded block accepts a long knobbed screw which is hinge-pinned to the base; this screw system moving the curved tray in an arc to provide elevation adjustments. The hinge-pinning of the elevation screw parts permits the screw to move vertically as the tray arm moves in its arc. This system provides a good elevation adjustment range and also provides a consistently uniform bearing of the forearm on the tray throughout the full elevation range. The elevation adjustments can be made conveniently and easily while the rifle is being brought to point of aim.

The rest tray bottom is of a shallow Vee shape and is covered throughout its length with a rubber-like material which, in its original state, tends to stick to a wood forearm and retard its free movement. A good dose of talc powder cures this stickiness and permits the forearm to slide freely in the tray. Forearms with round or oval bottoms tend to keep to the bottom of this shallow Vee tray, which aids in bringing the rifle back to point of aim after the recoil of firing a shot. The flat bottom forearms of some benchrest rifles would not work so well in this tray unless they were wide enough to fill the tray's width. I consider the tray design excellent for the forearms of most sporter or varmint rifles. This rest would be acceptable for bench rest competition in any class.

The long curved tray, fastened to the relatively light base at its rear end, tends to make the unit a bit top-heavy. The wide-spread legs provide ample stability for shooting but, when using the optional forearm stop, the stand tips forward easily when the forearm tip contacts the stop. This is easily noticeable, and isn't very serious, but it is something that has to be watched.

The set of rests I have tested (apparently a production sample) are very well made—a "quality" item. The prices (\$32.50 for front rest with optional fore-end stop at \$1.50 additional, and \$22.50 for rear rest) do not seem to be out of line with what the productions costs must be. A choice of the Womack front rest, or the "Twin-Set," over other available rests on the market would be very much a matter of personal preference of the user.

P. H. T.

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.22, .244 dia., 53 gr.
Bench Rest Hollow Point. Groups to 1/4" have been recorded.

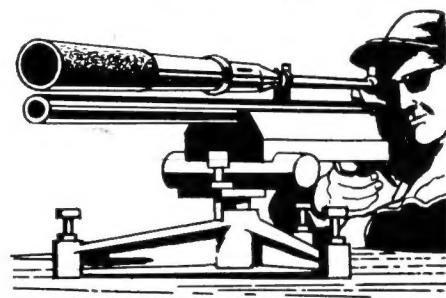
6mm, .243 dia., 75 gr.
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.25, .257 dia., 100 gr.
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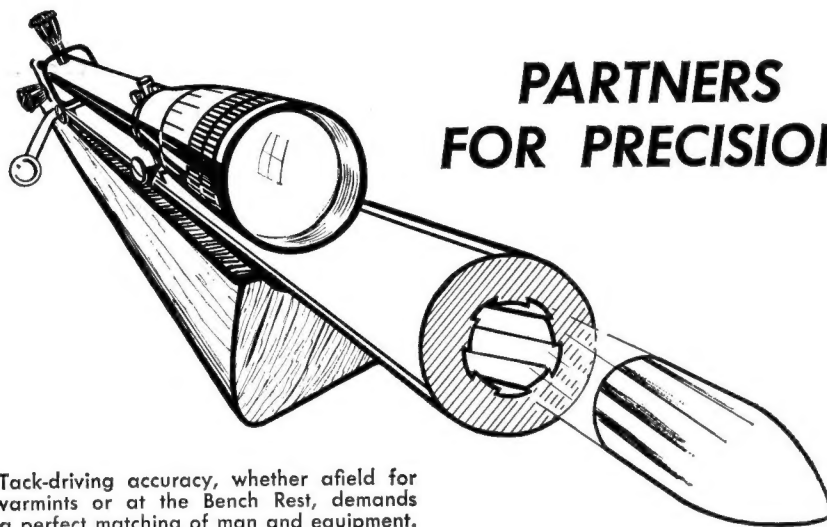
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